NEWSLETTER No 3 THURSDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 2011

SCHOOL LEVIES DUE TOMORROW (Includes Excursion Levy)

From the Principal…

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL LEVIES
Parents are reminded that the deadline for payment of 2011 School Levies is TOMORROW, 25th February. If you are yet to complete payment, please do so by this date. If any family believes that payment by the due date is not possible, please contact the Principal to discuss payment options. The school is required to settle accounts for bulk student supplies at this stage of the year, hence the need for all accounts to be finalised. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) Applications
Families that have a current Healthcare Card are eligible to apply to receive the EMA which assists with the payment of school levies. Applications close tomorrow. Please contact the General Office for an application form.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
A reminder that this edition of the Messenger contains ‘Notice of Election’ information for members of the school community. Nomination forms are available from the General Office upon request. Nomination forms will be available for self-nomination and to nominate another community member.

IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!
Parents and students are reminded of the importance of regular school attendance. While the majority of students attend regularly, there are an increasing number of students who are frequently absent, missing instructional time and risking slipping behind in their learning. Generally speaking, every child should attend school on a daily basis unless unwell. Occasionally special family circumstances may also require a break in attendance which is unavoidable. Frequent absenteeism also increases the likelihood of weaker social skills and in some cases may even lead to school refusal in some children. Parents are urged to place regular and punctual school attendance at the top of the priority list in supporting the development of their child.

SAFE DROP OFF BEHAVIOUR – TOIRRAM ROAD
It has been brought to my attention that a number of parents are choosing to arrive at the Toirram Road crossing in the no stopping zone just prior to the end of day school bell. This is an extremely dangerous practice as it obscures the line of vision of the crossing supervisor which in turn endangers student safety. Parking inspectors will issue infringement notices to offending drivers. Please avoid this convenient but unsafe practice.

SCOOTER SAFETY
While the school does not recommend students ride scooters to and from school for safety reasons, those who do, are reminded that the law states that all riders must wear a safety helmet in the same way as bicycle riders are required to do. Please ensure that helmets are worn to reduce the risk of injury. Students should complete a Permission to Ride to School form available from the General Office. Students are also reminded to ensure their helmets are properly secured on their head.

IMPORTANT TERM DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 24 Feb</td>
<td>Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 25 Feb</td>
<td>District Swimming</td>
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<td>Yr 6 Interschool Sports</td>
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<td>Thur 3 Mar</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Sports</td>
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<td>Twilight Sports – 6pm</td>
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<td>Fri 4 Mar</td>
<td>Clean up MWPS Day</td>
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<td>Wed 9 Mar</td>
<td>Cybersafety Workshop 7pm</td>
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<td>Mon 14 Mar</td>
<td>LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>Tue 15 Mar</td>
<td>Year 4 Camp commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 21 Mar</td>
<td>Harmony Day Celebrations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 24 Mar</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 29 Mar</td>
<td>Year 5 Camp commences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 2 – 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4 May</td>
<td>Whole School Photos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SCHOOL ORGANISATION

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, school enrolments have continued to climb, particularly in the last twelve month period. The growth in student numbers is a two edged sword in many ways, with both positives and negatives that result from increased student numbers. The positive aspects of the school growth include the affirmation of the school’s direction, curriculum, facilities and general learning environment. It is gratifying that the school’s growth has occurred without the need to advertise for students and is based on a very strong word of mouth recommendation. The size of the school also generates increased funding that enables the school to continue to make improvements to the learning environment, resources and facilities. Students also have access to a much broader range of friendship opportunities and specialist teachers. The other side of the coin is that increased numbers do put pressure on playground space and the availability of facilities. The school monitors these issues on a regular basis to ensure that the best possible planning is in place. The other pressure that results from increased student numbers is on the timetabling of specialist subjects across the school. The school continues to provide smaller than average class sizes to assist student learning.

The move to an eight day timetable this year has been necessary to enable all 31 classes to access the full range of specialist teachers on a regular basis. All large schools face this dilemma. While this provides less access time per term for students, it still offers students much wider access to a full range of specialist teachers that most smaller schools simply cannot offer. Specialist teachers are becoming far more strategic in their program planning to maximise student learning and assessment.

Being a Government school, we are expected to accept students for whom we are not the nearest neighbourhood school. We are also expected to accept students who arrive throughout the school year. This makes the control of student numbers challenging. Current advice is that seeking a cap on student enrolments is both difficult to secure and once in place difficult to administer. That being said, I will be undertaking further discussion with the Regional Office about the future possibility of capping enrolments. Please be assured that the school is not seeking further expansion of student numbers and is very aware of the need to monitor and act as required to ensure that the school continues to provide personalised learning opportunities to our students. Parents will shortly be made aware of a range of new initiatives which focus very closely on individual student data sets that result from a broad range of assessment tools. These data sets will be far more objective in nature and will provide parents and teachers with a clear picture of student achievement and progress, not only throughout the year but also across years of schooling. This information will also form the basis of new Individual Learning Plans for all children that will set out targets for improvement. In conclusion, the school continues to plan, adapt and introduce new strategies to ensure that our students receive the best possible access to learning opportunities in a safe and caring environment.

Trevor Saunders

INTERNET SAFETY PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

Wednesday 9th March 7.00pm

Mt Waverley Primary School is hosting a Cybersafety Outreach – Internet Safety Awareness presentation. A trainer from ACMA Cybersafety (Australian Communications and Media Authority) will offer a free information session for parents/guardians. This Internet Safety Awareness presentation covers issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

In order to organise adequate facilities it is important that we know how many people will be attending. Therefore, if you would like to participate in this session please complete the attached registration slip and return it to the Office by Monday 7th March.

Lynn Norman, Assistant Principal

SCHOOL PAYMENT REQUEST

When sending money to school, please enclose it in a clearly marked envelope (why not recycle one from home) and ENCLOSE any paperwork INSIDE this envelope. Please DO NOT STAPLE any forms to the outside of an envelope. Thank you.
Our Parent Teacher Interviews are taking a new look in 2011. The initial interview date has been pushed back till later in the term to give teachers time to analyse your child’s assessment data from 2010 and prepare the new individual learning plans. We also have a new online booking system that will be used for the first time. We will also be running a bell through the night to help interviews run on time. Should you require more than the allocated ten minutes please make an additional time to meet with the teacher.

Online Booking System
Parents will be able to book their interviews online as of next week. The website and access code will be available in next week’s newsletter. Interview times will be allocated on a first in best dressed system. Please make sure you get in quickly to ensure you get your preferred time. Parents who are unable to access the internet will be able to fill in a form and the office will enter your times.

Individual Learning Plans (ILP)
The discussion at the interview will be based on your child’s data from last year's end of year assessment. You will be provided with Progression Points, the scoring system our teachers use to identify your child’s level and testing results for reading, maths and spelling. The semester one target scores are a goal and not a guaranteed score. Teachers use these targets to help plan the work your child will be completing in semester one. There are some minor differences in the ILPs from each level because of the different assessments students sit in those levels.

We have provided a sample ILP below for you to have a look at. As we are introducing a new format to the interviews we are asking that all parents meet with the teacher to discuss the ILPs.

**SAMPLE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: Trevor Saunders</th>
<th>Class: 3B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment</strong></td>
<td><strong>2010 score</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading PPT</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Level</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number PPT</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Demand Number</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling age</td>
<td>9 years 2 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At school Trevor will be working on the following skills:
- Learn 8, 9, 10 times tables
- Ending sounds and plurals when spelling
- Connecting ideas in text to support comprehension

At home you can support Trevor by:
- Chanting his tables
- Practising weekly spelling words
- Asking Trevor to retell what he has read and ask him questions about the text.

**Personal Learning Goals**
- Complete weekly homework to the expected level
- Maintain a student diary
- Keep bookwork neat and organised
- Play respectfully with his friends and practise taking turns

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**MATHLETICS CERTIFICATES**

Last week, our students achieved a total of 313 certificates, which was an impressive tally. Congratulations to 2D and 2M for winning the Mathletics trophy for Junior school, and 3B for winning it in Senior school last week! Also, congratulations to the following students who attained silver and gold certificates in recent weeks!

**SILVER**
Senuda, Harry, Jason, Yu Xuan, Cooper, Liam, Fiona, Riley, Shinae, Max, Linda, Harry, Jaida

**GOLD**
Chloe, Edwin, Jack, Liam, Dion, Damian

Mark Mickelson, Assistant Principal
STUDENT ABSENCES
If your child has been away from school for two days, please contact the school office (9807-1480) by the third day if they are still not able to return to school. Don’t forget any absences from school, be it in the morning, afternoon or a full day, an absence note must be presented to your child’s class teacher with details of their absence. Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS....
LIBRARY TIMETABLE
Research has shown that free voluntary reading is very strongly linked with comprehension, vocabulary growth, spelling and grammatical ability, and writing style. Engagement with reading is the most influential factor in increasing reading proficiency, and the research also tells us that engagement is never more enhanced than when a student is surrounded by a wide range of reading matter and has someone on hand to assist in finding just the right books to interest them.

For this reason we have sent home a calendar of library sessions to each family. Please put the yellow Library Day calendar, which came home on Tuesday, in a prominent place in your house, and help the children to remember to check it before school in the morning.

However please also remind them that library books can be exchanged in the morning before school every day, straight after school, (but quickly because I can’t be late for meetings), at lunchtime library daily, and at the class teacher’s discretion and by arrangement with me during class time, so there should be no reason for anyone to be either short of something to read, or burdened with overdue books!

We have a great library collection, which is very well used by the children. Their access to the books will be enhanced by your assistance in keeping organised, in spite of their very busy timetable. Thank you for your support!

PREP BORROWING
Many of our preps have now brought home their first library book! Quite a few however do not yet have a sturdy cloth bag, named, in which to safely carry their books. Book bags are available at the uniform shop, library bags are sold at stores such as Target and Kmart, and of course can come in many shapes and sizes, or lovingly made by families at home. If you haven’t done so, please send one in with your child soon so that they may borrow.

Preps parents are welcome to come to the library in the morning just before school to read with their children and, later in the term, help them select books. It’s a great way to start the school day and a good opportunity to share a book, as many families have already discovered! Jacqueline Griffeth, Teacher - Librarian

HARMONY DAY – MONDAY 21st MARCH
All students are welcome to come to school dressed in their countries traditional costume or they can wear anything orange which represents multi-culturalism.

Also if there are any groups that would like to present a Cultural Performance at our morning assembly (9am), could they please contact Mark Mckelson, Assistant Principal as soon as possible. Thank you.

FAMILY FUN DAY ENTERTAINMENT
The Mt Waverley Primary School Family Fun Day is being organised for Saturday 22nd October and we are hoping to maintain a focus on different cultural groups for the entertainment. It is hoped that the program for the day will include performances by our students, members of the school community and groups from the wider community.

If you are willing to organise a performance, have contacts with any performing groups or know someone who would be willing to teach a group of children songs or dances from other countries would you please contact Lynn Norman (Assistant Principal).

MUSIC NEWS....
GUITAR PLAYERS WANTED! If you can play guitar by chords, and would like to join the school band, please contact Mrs Beilin as soon as possible.

Also could any student who plays an instrument, please see Mrs Beilin for further information.
ENVIRONMENT UPDATE NO 2

Congratulations to our winning classes this week! Class 5B had 88% rubbish free lunches in their class and class 1C had 91% rubbish free lunches in their class for the second week in a row! 1C looks like the class to beat this term! REMEMBER: EVERY DAY IS A RUBBISH FREE LUNCH DAY AT MWPS!

Scores for this week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td></td>
<td>1C</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>3B</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td></td>
<td>1K</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>1L</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>3G</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>1P</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>3P</td>
<td>76%</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>4K</td>
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<td>2D</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>4L</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<td>2R</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>4S</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<td>2T</td>
<td>85%</td>
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TIP FOR A RUBBISH FREE SNACK:
For a treat, buy a large box/pack of biscuits or chips and put a serve into a reusable airtight container for your child’s snack. It will cost less too. Here is the proof!

How much does it cost?
1 box of 200g BBQ shapes = $2.78  
1 multipack of 12 individual BBQ Shapes (300g altogether) = $5.13
An individual pack from the multipack costs $0.43  
Each of these individual packs contains 25g.
You would need to purchase 1.5 boxes of BBQ shapes to get 12 of the same size servings.  
1.5 boxes would cost $4.17. The price difference between 1.5 boxes and 1 multipack of shapes is $0.96. Buying the box is more economical because if you buy 1.5 boxes of BBQ shapes (300g) and buy 1 multipack (300g) the 300g in the 1.5 boxes will cost less.

You will also be buying **12 less bags of plastic that cannot be recycled** and ends up in land fill.

So it is a win for your pocket and a win for the environment!

TARGET TUESDAY #1
On Tuesday 15th February, MWPS held its first Target Tuesday. The whole school participated in a rubbish pick up and all of the rubbish was placed onto our large target. The aim is to make the amount of rubbish on the target become smaller and smaller until there is only enough rubbish in the school to fill the inner most circle of the target. Of course, the ultimate target is to have no rubbish in the school, but we realise that some rubbish will blow in from the streets. Here are some photos of children enjoying the Target Tuesday Challenge and doing their bit to make our school environment cleaner.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY AT MT WAVERLEY PS
Sunday (March 6th) is Clean Up Australia Day. This event is held every year around Australia and tonnes of rubbish is collected and disposed of by volunteers. Mount Waverley PS is participating again this year in this program as we aim towards being an environmentally friendly, waste-wise school and community.

We will be cleaning the school on **FRIDAY 4th MARCH** as part of our contribution towards cleaning up Australia. All of the children will be involved and we ask that the children bring some old kitchen gloves to wear or a small plastic bag to wear over their hands. Children are also asked to bring a plastic bag for collecting the rubbish, which will be disposed of by Monash City Council. Thank you for your support. If you would like to participate in Clean Up Australia Day in your local community, register your interest and find a clean up site at the following web address: [http://www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)

Thanking you on behalf of the children and the environment!  
Loretta Leary, Environment Co-ordinator
REMINDER – JUNIOR CHOIR STARTS TOMORROW!
Junior Choir Resumes tomorrow, Friday 25th February at the first lunch bell in the Great Space in the Senior Building. It is open to all students from Prep to Year 2. Rehearsals will be held every Friday at lunchtime from the first bell until the second bell. This means choristers still get half an hour of lunchtime to play. The choir is a free service being run by parent volunteers, Cate and Naomi, who both hold music degrees and current Working With Children Checks. Only age appropriate repertoire will be introduced (no pop). If your child is interested in attending, they are welcome to come along, there is no paperwork etc required. Naomi will collect any interested Preps from their classes just prior to the bell.

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

RITCHIE’S IGA SUPERMARKET FUNDRAISER
An easy way to raise money for our school! Present your MWPS IGA Ritchie’s Card or Key Tag each time you shop at any IGA Ritchie’s Supermarket. 0.5% of your spend is donated by Ritchies to Mount Waverley Primary School.

Key Tags and Cards are available from the School Office - why not grab an extra tag for members of your family as well? Don't forget to show your MWPS Card or Key Tag each time you shop at a Ritchies Supermarket.

THANK YOU
We would like to thank the Wilde family for delivering and donating boxes and butcher’s paper to the school. It will be well used!

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

• **STUDIO ‘D’ BOYS ONLY DANCE CLASSES** – Do you have a son that loves to dance, tap, jazz, wants to make new friends, loves playing games? LITTLE PRINCES 3-6yr old boys only Sat 9-9.30am. JUST BOYS 6yrs and above, Fri 4.30-5pm. First 2 trial lessons FREE. Class in Fairway Avenue, Mt Waverley.
  **STUDIO ‘D’ ADULT DANCE CLASSES** – Adult mixed, Ballet and Contemporary, Zumba, Jazz. First two trial lessons FREE. For both this and the boys only classes, call 9547-6358 or visit [www.studiod.com.au](http://www.studiod.com.au)

• **ABC SPEECH PATHOLOGY** – is a unique speech Pathology service specializing in the treatment of children with speech and language disorders. Individual and small group sessions. Located at Unit 5, 5-7 Chandler Rd, Boronia Ph: 9755-7306 or email [abcspeech@bigpond.com](mailto:abcspeech@bigpond.com)

• **TIMBERWOLVES BASKETBALL CLUB** – Play and train at the one venue! We are a basketball club affiliated with the Waverley Basketball Association. Teams cater for all skill levels – beginners to A Grade players. For further information visit [www.timberwolves.org.au](http://www.timberwolves.org.au)

• **WANTED** - A mature responsible person to assist with ensuring my daughter gets to and from Mt Waverley Primary safely. Please call Vincent on 0406 262404

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ACMA CYBERSAFETY PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS
(Please return to the class teacher or via the General Office Letterbox)

I wish to attend the Internet Safety Awareness presentation to be held at Mt Waverley Primary School on Wednesday 9th March 7.00pm.

Name: ___________________________________ Number of adults attending: _____