NEWSLETTER No 4    THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2013

CURRICULUM DAY, NEXT FRIDAY 8 MARCH
PUPIL FREE DAY

From the Principal...

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS
I am pleased to announce that, as the number of nominations matched the number of vacancies on School Council, no election process will be required. Therefore each of the nominated candidates is declared elected to School Council. I welcome the following members of the school community to School Council:

Parent Members:
Douglas Smith (returning), Sam Wickramaratna (new), Michael Seelig (new) and Stuart Bateman (returning)

A complete list of School Council members will be published once office bearers have been decided for the current year.

ONLINE PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW BOOKINGS
The first round of parent/teacher interviews will take place next week on Thursday, 7 March. Each child will receive an Individual Learning Plan for the year. The plan outlines last year’s assessment results in the key areas of literacy and numeracy. The data provides a great starting point for the conversation about your child’s plan. Please use the online booking system to book a meeting with the class teacher from the times available. Please discuss alternative arrangements with your child’s teacher if you unable to attend at the times on offer.

ONLINE BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE AT: www.schoolinterviews.com.au and our school code is: DSJND
If you are unable to access a computer please contact the office staff for assistance before bookings close.

**BOOKINGS CLOSE NEXT TUESDAY, 5 MARCH AT 9AM**

WET DAY CAR PARK SAFETY
This week’s wet weather brought a number of concerned parents to my door in regard to unsafe use of the school car parks by parents trying to deliver students as close as possible to the school door. While I fully understand the motivation behind this practice, I must stress the danger of fast moving and congested traffic in areas where students and parents walk. The risk of an accident in such congested conditions is high. I urge all parents to keep the safety of our students as a top priority and refrain from entering the car park areas to pick up or drop off students. Thank you for your consideration of this important safety request.

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL ACCOUNTS
The response to last week’s request for finalisation of school accounts was very encouraging, however there are still a number of accounts yet to be settled. Please complete payment as soon as possible to enable the school to settle outstanding invoices for student supplies. Please remember that student supplies are NOT COVERED by any other government funding and that the school relies on parent payments to meet its obligations. Thank you for your assistance with this urgent matter.

Trevor Saunders
 IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 1</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day at MWPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 4</td>
<td>Secondhand Uniform Sales am &amp; pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 6</td>
<td>Prep Fitnessworx Incursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 7</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher Interviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8</td>
<td>CURRICULUM DAY – PUPIL FREE DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 11</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 12 - Fri 15</td>
<td>Yr 4 Camp</td>
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<td>Wed 13</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting 7pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 19</td>
<td>Prep-Yr 2 Junior House Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 20</td>
<td>Twilight Sports – Whole School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 28</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 – 2.30pm Early Dismissal</td>
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**PAYMENT $$$ REMINDERS....**

- 2013 School Accounts - now OVERDUE
- Yr 4 Camp Payments - now OVERDUE
- Yr 3 & 4 ‘Best you Can Be’ Incur due Fri, 1 March
- Prep Fitnessworx Incur due Mon, 4 March
- Yr 5 Camp Payments due Fri, 15 March

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**YOU CAN DO IT!**

NICOLETTE K

In 1/2Y, is our
“Can Do It Champion of the Week”
for
‘GETTING ALONG”
Congratulations Nicolette!

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**CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY – TOMORROW!**

Sunday (3 March) 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 will participate 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 TOMORROW, Friday, 1 March as part of our contribution towards cleaning up Australia. All of the children will be involved. Please feel free to supply your child with rubber gloves, tongs and plastic bags on the day. Thank you for your support.

**TWILIGHT SPORTS, Wednesday 20 March**

- SAUSAGE SIZZLE : HELP NEEDED!

It is a tradition that we offer families the opportunity to have a sausage and drink when they come along to our School Twilight Sports. To make the Sausage Sizzle happen, we need someone or friends to co-ordinate it. Things to be done include (but not limited to):
  a. Order the sausages, drinks and bread
  b. Check supply of sauces and serviettes
  c. Liaise with parents who have offered to help and create roster
  d. Supervise the set up of barbecue, tables and tools

Amanda Ingram-Davis (P & F Committee Chairman) is most happy to share her tips and assistance with this year’s Twilight Sports Sausage Sizzle co-ordinator.

If you are mildly interested in taking on this challenge, please either contact Amanda Ingram-Davis aingramdavis@gmail.com or Toni Peters tonipetersonoz@yahoo.com.au to discuss this further.

**If we can't find a co-ordinator/s, we may not be able to offer this great, easy dinner option** 😞
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS PROGRAM

- **ACCOUNTS** - Could all families currently using the Before or Afterschool Out of Hours program, please collect and pay your accounts on time. **Some accounts are already OVERDUE** including some payments required from our January 2013 Vacation Care program!

- **CURRICULUM DAY – MONDAY, 8 MARCH.** Enrolment forms are now available from the OSH program area (foyer of the hall) for this curriculum day. Bookings essential – limited places available, so be quick!

FROM THE SPORTS DESK...

**Inter-School Sport**
This Friday MWPS will be playing a “double-header” vs Mount View PS Gold and Blue teams. All Softball teams are playing at Waverley Softball Centre, Jells Rd (Game 1 vs MV Gold starts at 11am and game 2 vs MV Blue starts at 12:20pm). All Kanga Cricket teams and both Volleyball teams are playing at Mount View PS (Game 1 vs MV Gold starts at 11am and game 2 vs MV Blue starts at 12:20pm). Bootball, Rounders and Bat Tennis are playing at MWPS (Game 1 vs MV Gold starts at 9:40am and game 2 vs MV Blue starts at 12:20pm). Good luck to all.

**Results from last week vs Mount Scopus:**
MWPS won: Girls Softball A (6-4), Girls Softball B (13-12), Kanga Cricket A (172-100), Kanga Cricket B (114-99) and Girls Volleyball (2-0)
MWPS lost: Mixed Volleyball (0-2), Bat Tennis (16-50), Bootball (7-9) and Danish Rounders (0-7)
Bye: Mixed Softball and Kanga Cricket C

**District Swimming:**
Congratulations to the thirty students who represented MWPS at the District Swimming event last Friday. The students performed brilliantly and were a credit to themselves and MWPS. Thanks to all the parents who offered support and came along to cheer the students on. Twelve students qualified for the Division event being held today: **Vicky T, Makenna P, Chloe P, Rebecca A, Yong Feng J, Sean F, Adrian B, James H, Alanaah S, Winnie D, Jiny J and Derek Z.** Good luck to all these swimming stars!

MATHLETICS CERTIFICATES

Congratulations to 1A, 1B, 1/2Y, 3D, 4C and 6B for being the Top Mathletics Classes last week, and 1/2Y and 6B on being awarded the trophy in recognition for achieving the highest percentage of certificates in junior and senior school respectively last week. Congratulations also to the following students who attained silver and gold certificates in recent weeks!


**GOLD** Alannah T, Avi Y, Lynette S, Brad S-W, Jemima M, Dylan S

RUBBISH FREE LUNCH DAY WINNERS

Congratulations to our winning classes for last week’s Rubbish Free Lunch Day. The winning junior class was **PD** with 84% rubbish free lunches in their class and the winning senior class was **4A** with 96% rubbish free lunches in their class. Our winning classes are rewarded with 15 minutes extra recess! Congratulations!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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<td>PA</td>
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<td>1C</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>3B</td>
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<td>5B</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PB</td>
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<td>1D</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>3C</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>91%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PC</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>1/2Y</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>5D</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PD</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>2A</td>
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<td>3/4Y</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>5E</td>
<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>4A</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>6A</td>
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<tr>
<td>PF</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>4B</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>6B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>4C</td>
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<td>6C</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>No results</td>
<td>6D</td>
<td>90%</td>
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SECONDHAND UNIFORM SALE
The second hand uniform shop will be open, weather permitting, on Monday, 4 March 8:50am-9:15am and again that afternoon 2:50-3:15pm. Prices range from $1-$5. As we are unable to change money please bring small denominations. Mechelle, Volunteer Parent

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS....
Parents and Friends committee wants you!
Mount Waverley Primary School (MWPS) has a very active group of parents that make up a committee known as Parents & Friends (P&F). They are the fundraising and community parent & teacher group within the school.
Every parent/guardian of a MWPS student is automatically a member of MWPS P&F Committee. There's no joining fee. The P&F Committee consists of some elected personnel to the positions of:

- Chairperson
- Assistant Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Parent Class Representatives Co-ordinator

There are many other parents who attend P&F Committee meetings to share their ideas and viewpoints with other people, or just to see what is involved and if there is any way they can help. There are even a few teachers who regularly attend meetings, to add different suggestions, viewpoints and ideas.

P&F’s fundraising efforts are focussed on outfitting school facilities with additional learning aids and equipment, in order to give our children the best possible education and start in life. In the past few years they have raised money to fund:

- Senior Learning Centre air conditioning
- Returfing and watering system for the oval
- Electronic Whiteboards in all classrooms
- New borrowing software for the library.

You don't have to hold a P&F Committee position to attend meetings. The current P&F Committee would love you to attend some of their meetings throughout the year. They don't bite, achieve lots and have a laugh or two as well.

P&F Committee Role Descriptions
Chairperson:
Facilitate monthly P&F Committee meetings
Liaise with Treasurer and Secretary in relation to setting agenda prior to monthly meetings
Participate on sub-committees if required

Secretary:
Type draft agenda for P&F Committee meetings and circulate via email prior to meeting
Finalise agenda and take minutes at meetings, circulate amongst P&F Committee members.

Treasurer:
In conjunction with the School’s administration team, maintain records of all funds raised and expenditure of funds raised
Report the above information back to P&F Committee
Prepare and maintain an annual budget forecast of funds being raised.

Parent Class Representatives Co-ordinator:
Liaise between P&F Committee and Parent Class Representatives
Organise and chair Parent Class Representative meetings
Encourage Parent Class Representative involvement

P&F Meetings Dates 2013 - Held in the Mt Waverley Primary School Staff Room 7pm – 8:30pm
13 February 13 March 24 April 8 May 12 June 24 July
14 August 11 September 16 October 13 November 4 December

Mount Waverley Primary School Parents & Friends aims:
1. to support MWPS objectives regarding education and student welfare through fundraising.
2. to increase family and community involvement in the school by social and fundraising Events,
   .......and by welcoming and supporting members and their input.
This year’s MWPS Family Fun Day is going to be **BIGGER** and **BETTER** than ever before!!

We will be having 7 carnival rides.... Chair O Plane, Mushroom Bugs, Jumping Castle, Inflatable Slide, Dodgem Cars, Zorb Balls and the Hurricane. Plus an Animal Farm for you to pet and cuddle some very loveable animals. Some of the stalls will be:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lucky Mystery Jar</th>
<th>Plants</th>
<th>Face Painting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laughing Clowns</td>
<td>Trash ‘n’ Treasure</td>
<td>Silent Auction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaffa Smasher</td>
<td>Second Hand Books</td>
<td>Lucky Plate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft</td>
<td>Jewellery Making</td>
<td>Footy Shoot Out</td>
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A full program is also planned for singers, dancers and musicians to perform on stage for us. There will be a huge variety of food on offer – such as Souvlaki, Nachos, Cakes, Scones with jam and cream, Pizza, Donuts, Pies and Sausages Rolls. We might even have some Fairy Floss and Lollies too. And, of course, one very large Sausage Sizzle.

All students will be encouraged to participate, in many ways. They could be involved with giving ideas about a new stall, helping with a stall, creating posters, setting up stalls, putting up flyers around the school, singing, dancing, taste testing food and, of course, coming along on the day and enjoying the fun.

**LAYOUT OF 2013 FAMILY FUN DAY**

- Basketball Courts – Carnival Rides and Sideshow Alley
- Hall – Silent Auction, Student and Community Stalls
- Senior Playground - Plant Stall, Lucky Mystery Jar, Second Hand Book Stall
- Prep General Space – Trash ‘n’ Treasure
- Senior Learning Centre (in and around) – The Food Court
- Under the Oak Trees – Stage Performances
- Oval – Zorb Balls
HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP US TODAY

Start collecting the following items, store them at your home, and bring them to MWPS when we get our storage space organised.

1. Everything second hand in good condition, but no electrical, no furniture, no clothing – for our huge Trash ‘n’ Treasure Stall
2. Glass & Plastic Jars – to be filled later with goodies for the Lucky Mystery Jar Stall
3. Plants – from seedlings to really big plants for the Plant Stall
4. Preloved Books – for the Second Hand Book Stall
5. New homemade craft – for the Craft Stall
6. Donations of new / unused goods to our Silent Auction (where you can bid on items and, if you’re lucky, win them)
7. Cakes and Slices – find your favourite recipe and get ready to do some wonderful baking for our Cake Stall

SKILLS FOR SHARING

If any parents have skills in the following areas and wish to share them, the 2013 Family Fun Day Committee would love to hear from you.

1. Catering Skills
2. Connections with businesses for possible money sponsorship
3. Connections with businesses for possible goods donations for Silent Auction
4. Printing of brochures, posters, postcards

If you have any suggestions you wish to share with the 2013 Family Fun Day Committee please email them to MWPS 2013 Family Fun Day Convenor, Toni Peters at tonipetersoz@yahoo.com.au

This is just the beginning. As the year progresses watch the MWPS newsletter ‘Messenger’ for updates on the exciting extras at this year’s MWPS Family Fun Day.

THIS MONTH’S SNEAK PREVIEW....

WHAT ARE ZORB BALLS?
A giant, 3 metre inflated ball, round and very bouncy. You jump inside it, it rolls and so do you! It’s a hair-raising adventure... for adults and children over 7. Zorbing is guaranteed to be like nothing you have ever experienced before.
**INSIGHTS BY MICHAEL GROSS**

The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

**Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children?**

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity. But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order. Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

**Kids develop at their own rates**

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school. The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

**Gender matters**

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood. Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

**Kids have different talents, interests and strengths**

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway. It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

**Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance**

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you! The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.

*For further information, visit [www.parentingideas.com.au](http://www.parentingideas.com.au)*

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**Community Noticeboard**

- **SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT THE RSPCA** – If you go crazy for cats, dote on dogs or want to have some fun with farm animals, then the RSPCA Junior Holiday Program is the place for you! Visit [www.rspcavic.org](http://www.rspcavic.org)
- **HELEN O’GRADY DRAMA ACADEMY** – Act, create, communicate. Self-development through drama! Enrolling now for students aged 5 to 17. Contact Tamara White on 8522-0007 or visit [www.helenoggrady.com.au](http://www.helenoggrady.com.au)
- **CHILDREN’S POTTERY CLASSES** – Places are now available for children 8-12yo. Classes held at Waverley Community Learning Centre, 5 Fleet Street, Mt Waverley. Ph: 9807-6011 or visit [www.waverleyclc.org.au](http://www.waverleyclc.org.au)
- **PLC SCHOOL DISCOVERY NIGHT** – Monday 18 March, 7.30pm. Ph 9808-5811 or visit [www.plc.vic.edu.au](http://www.plc.vic.edu.au)