Welcome back to the 2016 school year. The school term got off to a great start last Thursday with lots of new and old faces eager to start school. It is amazing how much children grow in a short amount of time. They seem to be getting taller every day!

We welcome all of the grade preps, new families and students to our school. We had many smiling faces in the prep class on Thursday and all of them were very eager to start their first school year. Here are some of their thoughts:


Dakoda: I like school because it is fun. I want to learn about everything. We have to do a lot of things. When it is lunch time we have to come inside really quickly after we play outside.

India: I like school and I get flowers for Bernadette. I have fun at school and I love school. I like playing with my friends.

C.J.: Bernadette has shown me how to write my name. I like drawing pictures. My brother is in the grade 1 class. I want to learn about computers.

Meghan: I like playing on the playground with my friends and the bigger girls. Bernadette has shown us the big screen and we can see pictures on it.

Isla: I want to learn how to fly a big aeroplane. I think that Bernadette can teach me. Bernadette has shown me where the toilet is. I like playing with my friends. I miss my little sister when I am at school.

Lillian: I like school because they let you play at school. I want to have food after lunch so that I don’t get hungry. Bernadette has taught me how to read and also teaches me lots things. I want to learn how to look after the chickens.

James: School is good. I like playing with Vance. I play with the cars. We drive them around. I have learnt everything.

Jayden: I like coming to school because it is different to kinder. We sing different songs. I want to learn how to be nice. I would like to learn how to paint animals.

Peyton: School is so much fun. There are different things to kinder. We get to stick things anywhere. We are nice to others. I want to learn how to write people’s names.

Vance: I like it when I play with my friend James. I am nice to people. Bernadette has shown us a movie about a caterpillar that could not get back in its cocoon. I want to learn how to ride a horse.

Alex: I play with my friends at school. Bernadette has taught me about Excellence, Integrity, Resilience, Respect.
reading. I know how to write now. I can write letters. I would like to make things at school.

The staff have all been busy over the holidays enjoying the break and getting ready to start the new year. We welcome Alisa Burdett to the team in a full time role as the grade 3/4 classroom teacher and Kathryn Treloar part time as the Visual Art specialist. Here is an update from the staff:

**Jodie Mengler - Principal**

I thoroughly enjoyed spending time at home over the holidays. I read lots of books, spent time with my family and did lots of relaxing and reenergising. I also went to the movies and spent time shopping in Melbourne (one of my favourite things to do!). This year I am in my 17th year at Maldon Primary school and I am looking forward to the many adventures that lie ahead in 2016.

**John Paton - Grade 1/2**

I spent my school holidays playing at home with Flynn and Sara-Jane. We began each day singing songs and reading several books (Flynn’s favourite is ‘The Cranky Bear’). We also started swimming lessons and that was heaps of fun! I’m looking forward to a really exciting and busy year in our classroom, we have lots of really great activities and learning experiences planned.

**Bernadette McKenna – Grade P/1**

I had a lovely holiday relaxing with my family and also managed some time gardening, reading, swimming, building and walking. I have been at Maldon since 2011, and have taught in Tasmania, the NT, NSW and also lived in Queensland. I have two children aged 13 and 11 who go to school in Castlemaine. I love creating art and am in the process of building a studio, so hopefully this year I will be able to find a bit more time for it!

**Danica Purcell - Grade 4/5**

I’m very excited to be back for a second year at Maldon Primary school in the grade 4/5 room. The holidays seemed to fly by so quickly it’s hard to believe we are starting another year already! I spent much of the Christmas and New Year period visiting my family in north eastern Victoria and enjoyed relaxing by the pool with a book most days. It was lovely to relax and recharge with some beautiful weather but I’m looking forward to getting to know the new faces in my room and tackling another action packed year.

**Kay Scanlan - Education Support**

I had a wonderful holiday catching up with friends that I don’t get time to see during the busy terms. I was also lucky to have spent 6 days at Anglesea. It was absolutely beautiful, very relaxing. I did lots of walking along the beach plus swimming and boogie boarding.

**Brett Harris - Grade 5/6**

In the holidays my beautiful wife, Jade and I embarked on an adventure cruising the South Pacific islands which was just magical! My highlights were the Cascade Falls in Port Vila, Vanuatu, singing karaoke with a live band, meeting lots of diverse and interesting people, learning about different cultures and spending quality time with my wife after a very busy 2015. I’m looking forward to another challenging year full of both academic and social growth among the students of 2016. The best part of being a teacher for me is facilitating in the students reaching that ‘light

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**Former Maldon P.S. students shine at C.S.C. Awards evening**

Maldon Primary school was very well represented when awards were handed out at the annual Castlemaine Secondary College Awards evening which was held on December 16th last year. Eight former students were awarded prizes on the night which is an amazing achievement for such a small school. Award winners were as follows:

| Visual Arts Encouragement Award, yr 10 | Georgina Gilbert |
| Best Year 11 Maths student | Cadel Watson |
| Musician of the Year | Crispin Smythe |
| Brendan Cox Memorial Prize Best Achievement in VCE Literature | Alexandra Squires |
| C.H.I.R.P. prize for Biology awarded to the best achievement in VCE Biology units 1 & 2 | Cedar Blazely |
| Anthony Newman Scholarship awarded to a student in Year 10 to recognise application and effort | Emma Webb |
| Castlemaine Field Naturalists Prize awarded to a student in Year 11 who has displayed excellent participation in environmental activities, awareness and appreciation of environmental issues as well as academic application and excellence. | Cassidy Humphrey |
| Ivor & Jessie Gazzard scholarship awarded to a year 11 student continuing to year 12. It is intended that the student have a good academic standard, so the number of Honours and Credits are considered. | Alexander Janka |
| Year 11 Dux | Cadel Watson |

In addition the following students were awarded certificates for achieving honours in multiple subjects in 2015:

- Bonnie Gain-McCubbin

Congratulations to all students on their achievements.
bulb’ moment, feeling proud of their personal achievements and fulfilling their potentials.

Alisa Burdett - Grade 3/4

The holidays seemed to fly by, but I did enjoy some special days out with my husband, Wayne and daughters Sienna and Tamika. Some of the places we visited were Funfields in Whittlesea, Fairy Park in Anakie and shopping in Melbourne (of course)! The girls got to experience ten pin bowling for the first time, which was lots of fun. We also enjoyed days with our extended family and friends. It was a nice relaxing break and now I am looking forward to returning to teaching in a full time capacity.

Kathryn Treloar - Visual Arts Teacher

I spent the summer holidays making the most of the time with my husband and 3 kids before the oldest 2 went back to school. We had lots of trips to the pool and a few nice day trips away. I’ve also spent some time getting things organised in the art room, ready for the students on Tuesday. I’m looking forward to teaching art this year and can’t wait to see how much the students can learn and create.

Liz Grainger - Literacy and classroom Coach

My holidays began with a great Christmas present with the birth of my granddaughter, Amaya, who has two brothers and a boy cousin. We all enjoyed some time at the beach, although Amaya didn’t swim! My new hip is fantastic, and I can’t wait to have the other one replaced later in the year. It’s lovely to see all the fresh faces ready for the new school year.

Debbie O’Byrne – Education Support

My husband Michael and I hooked up the caravan and went for a trip to NSW during the holidays. Our highlights were the Taronga Zoo at Dubbo and the beautiful Lake Cargelligo, which had the most water we have seen in a very long time. I have been at M.P.S. for almost 15 years and find my role as an Integration Aide, as well as managing the school library, very rewarding. Being a part of this school community makes me feel very proud.

Mary Thorpe - Performing Arts Teacher

It’s great to back at school and I am looking forward to another year of teaching Performing Arts. I am looking forward to helping students in their learning of music, dance, drama and circus. I had a great holiday, enjoying my other passion, bushwalking. This year I went to South West Tasmania and hiked along a mountain range for 9 days with my partner Ben.

Debra Watson – Business/Office Manger

I had a very relaxed (lazy) holidays after breaking a rib whilst demonstrating to my teenage children that I am not too old to water ski! Lots of sleep ins, movie watching, reading and generally doing not much which is how a holiday should be!! Only eight weeks until the next one.....

Prue Robertson – Social Worker

I had a wonderful time over the summer holidays. I went with my family to the beach at Barwon Heads for a couple of weeks camping. It was lots of fun – swimming, walking, looking at the rock pools, snorkelling and looking at the shops. I also spent time with my baby niece and nephew who are lots of fun. I am very excited to be back at Maldon Primary school today and it has been lovely visiting all the classrooms and listening to what everyone else has been doing over the holidays.

To welcome everyone to the 2016 school year we are having a Family Picnic on Thursday 11th February 5-7pm. All families are invited to bring along a picnic tea to enjoy in the school grounds. It is a great opportunity to mingle with other families and get to know people in our school community. The staff will also be there to get to know you and have a chat. Each class will do a small presentation at the picnic about our school values.

This term we will be having information sessions for parents to share what is happening in our classrooms so that you can support your child both at home and at school. It is also a great opportunity to learn about the programs that we teach every day.

We will be holding the sessions later in the evening to ensure that as many parents as possible can attend.

Senior Unit 3-6 (Alisa, Danica and Brett’s classes) – Tuesday 16th February 7pm-8pm
Junior Unit P-2 (Bernadette and John’s class) – Thursday 18th February 6.30pm – 7.30pm

The Bendigo Regional YMCA commenced the before and after school care program today. The program operates 6.45am – 8.45am and 3.15pm – 6.15pm. If you would like to use the service please contact the school
for further information or the YMCA on 5445 8300.

A reminder to all parents that students are not supervised at school before 8.45am and classrooms will be open to students from 8.45am. Please enrol in the before school program if your child needs to arrive at school prior to 8.45am.

Just prior to school returning to school I was notified that Maldon Primary school had won an Australia Day award with the Mount Alexander Shire. I attended the awards on Australia Day and felt very proud to accept the award for the Community Event of the Year for our annual shopping spree. The Maldon Shopping Spree began 10 years ago when a group of parents wanted to come up with a way to give back to the community and say thank you for their ongoing support. Each year it continues to grow and people come from far and wide to enjoy the event and spend money in our community. It is a very popular event with the Maldon traders and also one of their biggest days of the year. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Maldon community. A very big thank you to Freya Clifford who has spent many years coordinating the shopping spree.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening in the classroom?

Headphones for grade 5 and 6 students: All students in grades 5 and 6 are asked to bring their 2015 headphones back to school to use this year. If students require a new set of headphones we have a few available for purchase at the office at a cost of $7. Please note that we require students to have headphones NOT ear buds.

Young leaders Friday Fundraiser: Friday Fundraiser will not commence until after the water awareness program. The date for commencement will be advertised in future newsletters.

Fresh Fruit Friday: Information on when FFF will commence for 2016 will be published in the newsletter next week.

Office info

Camps, Sport and Excursions fund: The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and provides payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions.

To be eligible for CSEF:
A parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- On the first day of Term one, or on the first day of Term two, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR be a temporary foster parent.
- Submit an application form to the school by the due date.

$125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

Applications for the CSEF are available at the office and are due back at school by Friday 19th February. A new application must be submitted by families each year for the CSEF.

Bus Travellers: If your child will be taking the school bus in 2016 and you haven’t yet submitted a PTV permission form please contact the office to obtain a form to fill out. This form must be filled out by both existing travellers and any new travellers in 2016. The permission form must be returned to the office by Friday February 12th so that we can compile an accurate 2016 bus roll. More information regarding the school bus route, and student eligibility to use it is available from the office.

Conveyance Allowance: The Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance for parents/ carers to transport children to and from school in rural and regional Victoria. To be eligible for Conveyance Allowance a
student must attend their closest government school and must reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus or their nearest school bus stop. If you believe you are eligible for the allowance please complete a Student Conveyance Allowance application which is available at the office. **This form must be filled out by both existing conveyance recipients and new families who are eligible. You must submit your application form to the school by Friday, February 19th.**

**Working with Children Cards:** If you have a Working with Children check and plan to be involved in activities at the school please present at the office so that a copy of your Working with Children card can be taken for our WWC register. If you have previously provided a copy of your card and no details have changed there is no need to present it again. Any parent/carer wanting to assist with excursions, camps, in the classroom etc. MUST have a Working with Children Check. Information on how to apply for a WWC is available from the office.

**Permission notes to be returned:**

- Water awareness permission slips and payment are now overdue. Please return slips/payment to the office immediately.

A reminder that all current permission slips are available on the school website [www.maldonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.maldonps.vic.edu.au) if you didn’t receive or have lost your hard copy.

**Centrapay:** Maldon Primary school is registered for Centrapay. If your family receives a Centrelink payment you may want to consider setting up a regular deduction from your payment which will be transferred electronically to the school. These funds will remain unallocated against your family’s account until we receive your instruction on how to spend them. This is an excellent way for families to budget for upcoming expenses such as excursions, camps and uniforms. Please see Debra at the office if you would like a Centrapay form to set up a deduction.

**Bpay:** A reminder to all families that we accept payments by BPay. You may want to consider using BPay to make regular payments or a lump sum payment onto your school account to cover upcoming expenses such as camps, excursions and uniforms. Funds which are paid in advance will remain unallocated against your family’s account until we receive your instruction on how to spend them. Please see Debra at the office if you would like to use BPay but do not have your BPay details.

## School community

**Class contacts for 2016:** At the commencement of each school year we ask for a parent from each class to act as a class contact for the year. The role of the class contact is to support the classroom teacher in a variety of ways e.g. finding parents to go on excursions, assisting with costumes for the school concert, helping out in the classroom etc. Please let the office know if you are willing to act as a class contact for your child’s class in 2016.

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**Fundraising news**

**Bunnings BBQ help needed:** Our first fundraising event for 2016 is a Bunnings Sausage sizzle to be held on Sunday 14th February. The event is being coordinated by Kate Tucker and Nicole Funston however parent help is required throughout the day to set up, cook sausages, sell the sausages/drinks and clean up. Three shifts of workers will be in operation: 8.30am-11.30am, 11.30am-2.30pm, 2.30pm to end of clean up (approximately 5pm)

If you are able to help out with one or more shifts please contact Kate on 0409 996 561 or Nicole on 0417 540 331.
Thank you

- To Millie and Rex for looking after the school chooks over the holidays.
- To the Gilbert family for watering the front garden over the holidays.
- To Elizabeth and Marvic for their work in pruning and weeding the front garden.

Extra curricular catch up

2016 INSTRUMENT LESSONS

- Piano and keyboards
- Violin, Viola & Cello
- Woodwind & Brass
- Singing and Vocals
- Electric, Acoustic & Bass Guitar
- Ukelele & Banjo
- Drums and Percussion

$20/lesson +GST
For enquiries, please contact Drew
Ph. 0407 502 438
drewthorpemusic@gmail.com
Facebook page: Drew Thorpe Music

Community

Do you love to dance and perform?
Are you looking for a team sport offering fun, friendships, fitness and self confidence?
Add some gymnastics, ballet, singing and acting too, and you have found
the sport for you.... CALISTHENICS

Join us at our Come and Try classes to see what it is all about—TRY FOR FREE IN FEBRUARY

All classes held in Maiden Gully.
Times (3-7 years) Wednesday 4.15-5.30pm
Sub-juniors (10 years & under) Thursday 4.30-6.30pm
Juniors (13 years & under) Tuesday 4.15-6.30pm
Inter (17 years & under) Wednesday 6.00-8.30pm
Seniors (16 years & over) Tuesday 7.00-9.30pm
Masters (26 years & over) Monday 6.30-8.30pm
All abilities welcome.

More information...
0437 343 656
volairecalisthenics@gmail.com
www.volairecalisthenics.com.au
www.facebook.com/volairecalisthenics

** Call Ballet morning classes for 3-5 year olds coming in term 2....
Maldon Walking Group

- Walk for up to one hour
- Fitness not necessary
- People with chronic conditions encouraged
- Meet new people
- Stay motivated to exercise

Meet at: Maldon Neighbourhood Centre
When: Tuesdays at 7.30am for a brisk walk
Fridays at 9.30am for a leisurely walk which is followed by a cuppa and chat.

Cost: Free on Tuesdays
$1 donation for cuppa on Fridays

No RSVP necessary, just turn up prepared to walk.
Cancelled in case of rain, severe weather or code red day.

Please contact Liza Shaw for further information
Phone 5479 1000 or via email: lshaw@cdch.com.au

www.cdchcastlemaine.com.au

Castlemaine Circus Enrolments Open!

Circus is great for confidence, fitness and fun!

Join over 100 local students who say circus classes makes them feel ‘alive’, ‘excited about learning new things’ and ‘like I can do anything’

Term 1 program available at
www.castlemainecircus.com.au

Enquiries:
castlemainecircus@gmail.com | 0437 186 711

MALDON TENNIS CLUB

BEGINNER TENNIS

When: Friday afternoons beginning
at 3:30pm after school. Each
session concludes around 4:30 - 5pm
with a Coop Cooper.

EVERYONE WELCOME!!

Where: Maldon Tennis Courts
Why: To get together and have some fun
with friends a racquet and balls

Local tennis enthusiast Anne Fitzpatrick
offers her time and experience to engage
with local children to encourage a love of
tennis! Sessions continue throughout term 4.