Principal’s chat

I would like to welcome all families, new and old, to the Maldon Primary School community. We are so very fortunate to have a great school for all our children to learn and grow in.

Over the break the building works continued and everyone worked hard to ensure that the classrooms were ready for students on day one. The classrooms look very bright and fresh – a great space for students to learn and teachers to teach.

We have a few new spaces within the school including a new sick bay/first aid area and staff area. Some photos are below and right, but feel free to pop in and have a look.

Over the next holiday break the flooring in the corridor will be replaced.
Welcome back to all the teachers and staff and a big welcome to our new staff members – Helen Pyers, Colleen Gibson and Desiree Underwood.

Our staff for 2017 are as follows:

Principal – Jodie Mengler
Business Manager – Debra Watson
Grade Prep/1 teacher – Alisa Burdett
Grade 1/2 teacher - John Paton
Grade 3/4 teacher – Danica Purcell
Grade 4/5 teachers – Helen Pyers (4 days) and Liz Grainger (1 day)
Grade 6 teacher - Colleen Gibson
Art Specialist – Kathryn Treloar (Wednesday)
Music/Performing Arts Specialist – Desiree Underwood (Friday)
Teaching and Learning Coach – Liz Grainger (Wednesday)
Education Support Staff – Debra O'Byrne and Kay Scanlan
Welfare Office – Prue Robertson (Monday)

To welcome everyone, and to give families a chance to chat with staff, we are having our Welcome Family Picnic this Thursday 9th February at 5.15pm. Families are invited to bring a picnic dinner and find a spot in the school yard to enjoy it. It is a great opportunity to get to know others in our community and to catch up with teachers and staff. Each class will also do a small presentation about Maldon Primary School. We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday.

Last week was also a very special week for our grade Prep students who started primary school. Each of them were very keen and excited to be part of the classroom. Here are some of their thoughts about school so far:

**Grace** – I like my teacher because she is kind. I like the school grounds. You can play lots of games. I want to learn how to write.

**Isla** – I like playing at school. I like Jodie’s dresses. I want to learn how to write. I like the secret door in my classroom. I like the tent in my room too.

**Alice** - My locker is close to Isla’s and we sit next to each other. I like playing in the cubby. I want to learn how to write.

**Olivia** – I like playing in the tent in my room. I have fun playing on the playground. I want Alisa to teach me how to play with mice.

**Marley** – I like reading books at school. It is fun playing on the playground. I want to learn how to write letters.

**Wilbur** – I like learning in my classroom. I play with my friends at school. I like playing Pokemon.

**Yoshi** – I like playing on the slide. I like the plants at our school. I want to learn how deep to dig a hole for a plant.

**Seth** – I like playing soccer. I like the tables in our classrooms and the chairs are so comfortable. I want to learn how to read Harry Potter.

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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 14th 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:

**Drama Support Group Performing Arts Award (senior)**
Crispin Smythe

**Music Support Group Award (senior)**
Crispin Smythe

**Bob Swift Prize Best Year 12 English Student**
Cadel Watson

**Sir John Higgins Prize VCE Physics/Chemistry Units 1/2**
Georgina Gilbert

**Marjorie C Rilen Sports Awards**
Senior Sports Star (Girl)
Cassidy Humphrey

**R.J. Adams Scholarship**
Awarded to the student completing the first year of the VCE to assist them into the second year. It is awarded on the basis of participation in sport, leadership and levels of application and achievement in their studies
Douglas Gray

**Carl Steiner Scholarships**
Awarded to a final year VCE student to assist them to tertiary studies. Recipient is determined by the level of achievement and application attained
Alexander Janka

**Les Currie Scholarships**
Awarded to a year 10 student to enable them to complete their VCE. This award is an annual grant over two years. The recipient has the highest aggregate of Honours and Credits over both semester
Kadira Watson

**Stephen Brown Memorial Scholarship**
Awarded each year to a high achieving student involved in a VET or VCAL Program
Emma Webb

**Principal’s Award**
Given for a perfect Score of 50 in a VCE 3/4 subject
Cadel Watson

**Year 12 Dux**
Cadel Watson

In addition the following students were awarded certificates for achieving honours in multiple subjects in 2016:

Dakoda Munro, Phoenix Ousley Bonifacio, Emily Zammit, Bonnie Gain-McCubbin, Kadira Watson, Georgina Gilbert, Douglas Gray, Crispin Smythe, Cedar Blazely, Alexander Janka and Cadel Watson
Theo – I like being outside at school. It is a big area. I play Pokemon. Learning is fun at school. I want to learn how to recognise words.

Auzzie – I like going outside. I play with the soccer ball. I miss my mum. I like Alisa. I have fun playing at school. I like writing. I can spell my name.

Next Monday our Swim and Survive program commences for all grade Prep to 6 students. Each class will attend the Maldon swimming pool for a half hour lesson. We have three qualified instructors who will run the program and staff will supervise. Please ensure that your child has their bathers, towel and sunscreen every day for their lesson. Our lessons will commence after 11.30am so it is recommended that students do not wear their bathers to school. According to our school policy any parent entering the change rooms to assist must have a Working With Children Check. If you would like to assist in the change rooms please present your card to Debra in the office (if you haven’t already done so) or ask her for assistance in obtaining a Working With Children Check. The program runs every day for two weeks and on the final day, Friday 24th February from 9.30-1.30, we have our swimming carnival where parents are invited to come along and watch their child participate in a range of events. We also need parents/volunteers to help out on the day of the carnival to ensure that it is successful. Jobs include handing out ribbons or place cards, recording information or organising races. Tomorrow we have our first sports committee meeting for the year and we will be working on putting things in place for the swimming carnival. It would be great to see some new faces. The meeting commences at 9.15am and concludes at 10.00am.

**IMPORTANT SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION – CODE RED AND EXTREME WEATHER DAYS**

The Maldon Primary School site and surrounds are listed as Extreme in the Victorian Fire Risk Register and, due to this, on days that are forecast EXTREME FIRE DANGER and CODE RED DAYS the school will be CLOSED.

In the past we were always closed on CODE RED days due to our location, but we are now instructed that we will also be closed on EXTREME weather days. The closure on EXTREME weather days will be for the remainder of term one at this stage.

Please read the information below and the attached letter for further information around school closure procedures.

**School procedures for the bushfire season**

Fire Danger Ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

A small number of schools on the DET Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), including our own, will closed on all CODE RED and EXTREME Fire Danger Rating days.

Once we are advised of an Extreme or Code Red Fire Danger Rating day, we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.
It is important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast EXTREME or CODE RED Fire Danger Rating day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps may be cancelled if a forecast Extreme or Code Red Fire Danger Rating day is made by the Bureau of Meteorology in the district in which the camp is located.
- The school bus route will also be cancelled on Extreme or Code Red days.

On these Extreme or Code Red Fire Danger Rating days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan. **On such days children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.** As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

**What can parents do?**

- Make sure your family’s bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website [http://maldonps.vic.edu.au/](http://maldonps.vic.edu.au/), by logging into our Facebook page and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s bushfire survival plan.


For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the VicEmergency website at [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

**Warm regards**

Jodie

**What’s happening in the classroom?**

**Friday Fundraiser:** Friday Fundraiser will not commence until after the Water Awareness program. The date for commencement will be advertised in future newsletters.

**Art supplies needed:** Kathryn is looking for donations of the following items for the Art room:

- Meat trays
- Plastic bottle tops
- Small cardboard boxes (cereal size and smaller)
- Plastic containers e.g. yoghurt containers

Please leave any donations at the office.

**School community**

**Maldon Primary School Facebook page:** FIND US ON FACEBOOK– If you are on Facebook please join our school Facebook page. It is a closed group for parents only. The page is used to keep you up to date on what is happening around the school including reminding you of excursions, payment dates, meetings and other day to day activities.

**Fresh Fruit Friday:** Fresh Fruit Friday has now commenced for 2017 thanks to the continuing generosity of Maldon IGA. Once again we need your support to cut up and deliver the fruit to classes. A note is being sent home this afternoon regarding this. Please indicate on the form when you are able to assist with the fruit cutting and return it to the office by next Monday 13th February.

**Class contacts for 2017:** 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 2017.
Office Information

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 were sent home in the information packs at the end of 2016 and are also available at the office. All applications are due back at school by Friday 17th February. A new application must be submitted by families each year for the CSEF. Please see Debra in the office if you have any questions regarding CSEF.

Bus Travellers: If your child will be taking the school bus in 2017 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 2017. The permission form must be returned to the office by Friday February 10th so that we can compile an accurate 2017 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 17th.

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 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.
Thank you

- To Lochlan and his family for looking after the school chooks over the holidays.
- To Marvic, Jess and Marton for their work in pruning and weeding the front garden and installing a watering system in the vegetable gardens.

Fundraising news

Tea towel fundraiser: We still have five t-towels left from last year’s fundraiser. Please see Debra in the office if you would like to purchase one or more of them.

Community

YOUTH HUB FOR 12-18’S
YOUNG & SURROUNDS
HANGING OUT TOGETHER WORKSHOPS ACTIVITIES
EXCITING
WEDNESDAYS IN 2 PERIODS 8.30am - 12.30pm
8th Feb Theatre Sports
22nd Feb Intro Electronic Sound
23rd Feb Henna body painting & Games night

8th Feb Theatre Sports
22nd Feb Intro Electronic Sound
8th Mar Henna Body Painting & Games night

Tea towel fundraiser:

The community is supported by the Victorian Government.

CASTLEMAINE CHILDREN’S CHOIR
TERM 2, 2017

Castlemaine Children’s Choir is starting back in term 2, 2017, on Saturday February 4th. The choir is for children aged 7-12 and provides an opportunity for children to enjoy singing together in a large group, develop musical skills, and perform at community events. Sessions involve vocal warm-ups; pitch and rhythm activities; new pieces and familiar songs; and time for fun music games.

Timetable

- Classes run for 45 minutes, 10:30 - 11:15 am Saturday mornings.
- Term 1 starts Saturday February 4th.
- Term 1 runs will be shorter than usual - a 5-week program - due to venues being used by the Castlemaine State Festival. Usually choir runs almost every week of school term.

Venue

- The choir is held at Castlemaine Senior Citizens Centre, Mechanics Lane, Castlemaine (next door to Library and Pala Broadway theatre).

Term fees

- $10 per week.
- Please note - term commitment required, Term 1 is $40 for five weeks.

Booking

For bookings contact Castlemaine Community House - reception@chc.org.au or 5472 4942.

About the choir leader

Tim Watson studied music at the Victorian College of the Arts and has performed in professional choirs. He has also been a primary school teacher. While now in a different career, he started the choir to help children in the community experience the enjoyment of making music with others.