Principal’s chat

Hi everyone,

Welcome back to all students, parents and staff, and a special welcome to those new students and families who have joined the Maldon Primary School community for the first time this year. It was great to see and hear the school filled with the sound of happy children last week. The staff have been working very hard over the past few weeks to ensure a very organised and smooth start to the year. They have done a wonderful job. I’m excited to be back as Acting Principal and I am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. It has been lovely visiting classrooms and seeing the students actively involved in the ‘Start Up Week’ program where strong connections are made amongst students and teachers and expectations are set. This is the foundation for a successful year for everyone!

Our new Preps have now had four days at school. They have settled in very well into their classroom and have been enjoying the beginnings of their primary school education. I would like to thank all the parents/caregivers for preparing their children for the school year. Having children well prepared supports their learning and ensures a smooth start to each day.

Our Water Awareness program starts next week. This program will be conducted at the Maldon Swimming Pool and will be undertaken by YMCA instructors. All students are required to wear a rash vest or t-shirt while at the pool. Please ensure the relevant forms (permission and indication of ability) and payment have been returned to school by this Thursday 8th February.

We have decided to have our parent teacher interviews towards the end of this term, so that your child has had time to settle in and we can discuss their medals and missions with you. If you have any concerns regarding your child’s learning in the meantime, please don’t hesitate to organise a meeting with the classroom teacher.

The School Council AGM is coming up in March, so nominations for School Council will open next week. More information will be provided in next week’s newsletter regarding School Council and the role of councillors so make sure take a look and consider standing for School Council. Parents/Careers on School Council provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that help shape the direction of the school. This involvement is valued by the staff at the school and is very satisfying for the parent/carer.

This year Jaimee, our Japanese teacher, is offering parent/carer Japanese sessions every Tuesday between 2:45 and 3:15pm. This is an opportunity for you to learn some of the Japanese language, giving you some skills to help your child with the beginnings of learning a new language. This is a voluntary class and you do not need to attend every

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 21st February
Finance committee meeting, 2.30pm

Wednesday 28th February
School Council, 6.30pm

Friday 2nd March
Swimming Carnival, 9am

Wednesday 22nd March
School Council AGM
week. Younger siblings are welcome in the sessions. Jaimee would love to see some parents/carers in her first session tomorrow!

Due to changes in government guidelines we ask that if your child is absent you notify the school **ON THE DAY** either by phone, by email or by sending an absence form with a sibling to provide us with an explanation of the absence. Emails should be sent to maldon.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au. If you are aware of an upcoming absence e.g. dentist appointment you can give us prior notification of this using the absence forms sent home today.

*Thanks,*

*Alisa*

**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.

**School lunches:** A reminder to families to pack forks, spoons etc. in lunch boxes if they are required by students to eat their lunch.

**Salvation Army thank you:** Thank you to all families who donated to the 2017 Christmas appeal. The Salvation Army was very appreciative of your generosity.

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**Former Maldon P.S. students achieve success at C.S.C. Awards evening**

Maldon Primary school was well represented when awards were handed out at the annual Castlemaine Secondary College Awards evening which was held on December 20th last year. Four former students were awarded prizes on the night which is an amazing achievement for our small school. Award winners were as follows:

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

- **School Production Outstanding Contribution Award**
  - Crispin Beilharz-Smythe

- **Brendan Cox Memorial Prize Best Achievement in VCE Literature**
  - Crispin Beilharz-Smythe

- **Simone Mitchell Memorial Prize** Awarded to a Year 12 student who has demonstrated application and achievement in sport and academic studies
  - Douglas Gray

- **Castlemaine Health Board of Management Prize for Health Science Year 12**
  - Kadira Watson

- **Les Currie Scholarships** Awarded to a year 11 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

- **VCE VCAL Achievement Award-PDS**
  - Renee Lochhead

In addition the following students were awarded certificates for achieving honours in multiple subjects in 2017:

- Grace Alford Koolen, Sonya Kaye, Aleara Tranter, Emily Zammit, Bonnie Gain-McCubbin and Crispin Beilharz-Smythe

Congratulations to all students on their achievements.

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**7 Ways to make a sensational start to the school year:**

**BY MICHAEL GROSE**

A new school year means a fresh start for students. Regardless of your child’s performance last year, they start school with a clean slate. A break offers students the chance to begin new habits and adopt new behaviours.

Here are seven ideas to help you make the most of the fresh start and make this year your child’s best year ever at school:

**1. Commit to your child going to school every day on time**

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day – and gets there on time. Kids spend more time asleep than at school, so we need to maximise every day to get full value.

**2. Help kids start each day well**

A good night’s sleep, a healthy breakfast and some...
words of encouragement from you will help set a positive tone for a day of
learning. This may mean that you adjust your morning routine so that kids have
plenty of time to get up, eat and get ready for the day. Consider taking a leaf out
of the book of a friend of mine who gets her children to make their beds each
morning which sets the tone for a productive day ahead.

3. Establish work & study habits
The most successful students are those that develop regular study habits that suit
their lifestyle, their study style and their school’s expectations. Find out the work
expectations from your child’s or young person’s school and help them establish a
work routine that matches their personality, lifestyle and family style. Be flexible
here as one size doesn’t fit all when it comes to study routines.

4. Make sure your child gets enough sleep
I encourage you to make a big focus this year as many children and young people
are sleep-deprived, which impacts on their well-being and their learning. A good
night’s sleep consolidates learning, as well as assisting future learning. Children
need between 10-12 hours of sleep each day, while teens need a minimum of nine
hours. Help kids get sufficient sleep by having a regular bed-time and get-up time
each day. Have 45 minute wind-down time each night, and remove screens and
mobile phones from bedrooms.

5. Get your kids outside more for good physical and mental health
Kids today get less exercise than those of past generations, which is an
impediment to learning and mental health. Health professionals recommend a
minimum of 60 minutes of exercise per day for kids of all ages. Encourage kids to
play sport; promote free and active play and look for ways to make moving part of
their daily lives. Consider increasing your child’s green time and decreasing screen
time for good physical and mental health.

6. Focus on being friendly
Schools are very social places requiring kids to negotiate many different social
situations each day. Encourage kids to be open and tolerant; to be friendly; to be
involved in plenty of activities and to be social risk-takers. Some kids close down
their friendship opportunities through self-centredness, poor attitude and
unwillingness to take social risks.

7. Develop self-help skills
Successful students are often well-organised, self-directed and self-motivated. You
can foster organisational skills and self-direction by developing simple, age-
appropriate self-help skills related to their every day lives. Also use visual
parenting techniques (outlined in Spoonfed Generation) to aid organisation and
encourage independence. Such skills as making lunches, packing school bags, and
organising after school schedules can be great lessons that impact on how kids
perform at school.

At the start of the school year kids are more likely to adopt changes than at any
other time. Make the most of the opportunity by focusing on two or three areas to
really target and you’ll find that the rest may well fall into place.

This article is from the Parenting Ideas website at www.parentingideas.com.au

Office Information

Camps, Sport and Excursions fund: The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps to ensure that
no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.
Families who hold a valid means tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration
category is also available.

A payment of $125 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards
camps, sports and excursions costs for the benefit of students. Please note that this payment cannot be
used for school fees and charges.

Applications for the CSEF were sent home in the information packs at the end of 2017 and are also available at the
office. All applications are due back at school by Friday 16th February.
In 2018 you will not need to resubmit an application form if you were a CSEF recipient at Maldon in 2017 - your information will just be rolled over. You will need to submit a new form if:

- Your child has just started at Maldon Primary School OR started at Maldon Primary School in 2017 but did not apply for CSEF at Maldon.
- There has been a change in family circumstances such as a change of custody, change of name or CRN or if new siblings are commencing at the school.

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 2018 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 2018.** The permission form must be returned to the office by **Friday February 9th** so that we can compile an accurate 2018 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 16th.**

**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** and **water awareness ability forms** are due at the office by this **Thursday 8th February.**

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 excursions, 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.

**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.

**Sport News**

**Sports Committee meeting:** Our first Sports Committee meeting will be held tomorrow, February 6th at 9:30am to discuss the swimming program and sporting opportunities for 2018. Please come and join us, the more the merrier.

**Student achievements**

Yesterday five children from Maldon Primary School participated in the Bridgewater Triathlon. The event is held on the banks of the Loddon River in the township of Bridgewater about 50kms north of Maldon. People can enter either the fun course, the short course or the long course with each event requiring a swim in the Loddon River, a bike ride
and a run. It was a great family day out with the Bridgewater Primary School offering a sausage sizzle and local sponsors offering their support too. Congratulations to Dulcie, Angus, Abi, Liam W and Tom H on their completion of the event. Well done!!

A reminder that if you have any news about student achievements outside of school hours we would love to hear about it. Please email details, photos etc. to maldon.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Extra curricular catch up

Music lessons:

**INSTRUMENT LESSONS**

- Piano
- Singing
- Guitar, Bass & Mandolin
- Ukulele & Banjo
- Drums
- Violin, Viola & Cello
- Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute & Trumpet

ONLY $22/LESSON

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Community

Save the date

Sunday 18th March

10am-3pm

Family Fun Day

Maldon Racecourse Reserve

Supporting the Asthma Foundation in memory of

Ned Cameron

Maldon Tennis Club

Lessons are available at the Maldon Tennis Club from tomorrow, February 6th to suit all ages. Ash-lee Mick comes from Melbourne each week to offer lessons to all grades. Information including enrolment forms have been left at the Maldon Primary School front office. They begin at 3:30pm for beginners, with lessons for older children starting at 4pm. For further information, please pick up a form from the school office, or phone Bec Hamilton on 0428 752445.
Raising Your Child in the Digital World

Navigating the worlds of screen time and the internet can be pretty tricky when it comes to kids. To help parents explore some strategies around these issues, Castlemaine Library have Stef Cola from Doomsday Tuna coming to talk about parenting in the digital age and some great tools to plan your family’s digital boundaries.

“Raising Your Child in the Digital World” is a free session on Thursday 22nd February, 5.30-6.30pm at the Castlemaine Library and is aimed at parents with children aged 3-16. Bookings are required through the library website: ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Kids and Worry

During this workshop we will explore the reasons why children worry and ways parents and carers can support them. It will include ideas as well as practical tools to assist children to manage their worries.

Activities for Children

OCASIONAL CHILDCARE provides an opportunity for your child to learn and spend valuable play-time with other children in a caring environment, giving you time for your own activities.

It runs every Monday of the school term from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

Available for full-term enrolment or casual attendance.

$12 per session, suitable for ages 4 months to 4 years.

Term 1, 2018 starts Monday 29 January. Please book by 20 January on 5475 2093 or info@maldon.vic.gov.au.

Enrolment packs are available at the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre or info@maldon.vic.gov.au

Taekwondo

Mondays and Wednesdays 3.45–4.30pm

Mondays and Wednesdays 7.15-8.30pm

8 week term: $110 per term (twice a week) or $80 (once a week) CHILDREN & ADULTS WELCOME

TO BOOK: Call Ray Tuttleby on 0427 074 187

Does your child love to DANCE and PERFORM?

Calisthenics is the team sport with performing at its heart.

Calisthenics...

- builds strength, balance, coordination
- Life skills
- Fitness
- offers variety - dancing, singing, gymnastics
- and technical skills in all one weekly class
- provides a fun environment to develop lifelong friendships.

Bring your friends to our classes...

FEBRUARY IS COME & TRY MONTH!

First two classes free

Wednesdays in February

Sub-Juniors (10 years & under) 5.30–7.00pm
Inter (16 years & under) 4.30–6.30pm
Seniors (16 years & over) 7.00–9.00pm

Thursdays in February

Juniors (15 years & under) 4.15–5.30pm
Seniors (16 years & over) 5.00–7.00pm

Register your interest for the following classes – times to be confirmed...

Saturday mornings Cali-Dance (5 years & under)
Monday evenings Cali-Fit & Rec Dance for Ladies (20 years & over)