Principal’s chat

Due to attending a meeting, I unfortunately missed the great turn out of grandparents and special friends to our school last Friday. The classrooms were very busy as our visitors took part in activities and then enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea that I heard was very popular. There were certainly no left overs!!

My Mum and Dad often talk about their visits to my nephew’s school for grandparents day and how much they enjoy it. They love seeing their grandson at school including seeing the classrooms and what he has been learning. I hope that all of our special visitors felt the same and enjoyed their afternoon at our school. A very big thank you to our parent coordinator for the event, Shelley, and to the parents who helped with baking food, set up and pack up. These events cannot run without your support. It is very much appreciated.

This Friday we welcome and invite all of the Mums and special people in our children’s lives to our school for a very exciting Mother’s Day celebration afternoon tea. The afternoon tea will be made by the students and served to you on Friday afternoon from 2:15pm to 3:15pm. So come along and relax in the classroom cafes at Maldon P.S. I am sure that you will not be disappointed and it is a great way for your children to say ‘thank you’ for all of your hard work.

In other exciting news, last week Marton and Jess worked hard setting up irrigation and preparing our raised garden beds for planting. Jess then spent the day working with interested students, including the garden club, to plant our seedlings. We have a passionate group of students who have encouraged others to join the garden club and they are responsible (with the support of some parents) for watering and caring for the vegies in the garden. We can’t wait for them to grow so that we can do some cooking!

We are very fortunate to have received a donation of a pump from Bunnings Kangaroo Flat to hook up to our water tanks so that we can water the garden area. Many thanks to Bunnings and to Tom Robertson for picking the pump up.

Here are some thoughts from the garden club:

Alannah - We have been fixing up the vegie patch so that we can have some yummy vegies in our garden. Any parents are welcome to come along and help us. We had to make sure that the soil was ready to plant Four generations at Grandparent day!
the vegies.

Mercy – We started garden club after we found weeds in the front garden and starting pulling them out. Jodie made a suggestion that maybe we could start a club and we did. We weed the garden, plant seedlings and water them.

Alice – Jess came in and helped us plant all the vegies in the patch. We learnt that they had to be planted 30cms apart from each other to grow. We need to water them every day to make sure that they don’t die.

On Thursday, a week ago, we said farewell to our Indonesian teacher Peter Kuckhahn who has retired from teaching. Peter has been teaching at Maldon for the past 3 years, but has been in education for much longer than that!! He is very excited about his retirement and is looking forward to relocating to Bali. We wish Peter well with his retirement. We are in the process of finding a replacement LOTE teacher. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

On Friday I attended the regional directors meeting with all other principals from our area. A meeting is held each term and is run by regional staff. One focus of the meeting was on the new Victorian curriculum and its implementation in schools. At our school we are already implementing the Victorian Curriculum in preparation for its full implementation in 2017.

Education state targets were also discussed and they highlighted the need to recognise the importance of the whole child. Wellbeing is no longer separate but rather incorporated into the curriculum.

At our last school council meeting the Annual Report for 2015 was presented, which is an overview of the year and a brief self evaluation. Annual reporting informs parents and carers and the wider school community about the school's performance outcomes and its efforts to continually improve student achievement. It can be found on our school website or you can ask for a copy at the school office if you would like to read it.

The School Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) for 2016 was also presented and endorsed and the AIP focuses on our direction, priorities and goals for 2016. It doesn’t cover every single thing, but provides an overview of our school goals. It is aligned to the school strategic planning process and elaborates on how key improvement strategies and other significant projects will be put into operation, monitored and evaluated.

Here is a snapshot of our goals and priorities for 2016:

- Develop high expectations and challenges for all learners, and create opportunities within the school for student voice and leadership.
- Develop staff capacity to use a strengths based approach which will allow students to develop a higher level of positive engagement and strong academic performance.
- Ensure that all members of the school community feel that they are in a safe, positive and supportive learning environment.
- To develop students who are resilient, active learners who are well connected to self, peers, school and wider community.

At the commencement of the school year, information in regards to our Birthdays

Cael

Whole school behaviour awards

Back row L to R: Brodie, Tia and Darius

Front row L to R: Isla and Harry

Creativity award - Essie

Come along cup - 1/2J and P1B

Early birdie award – 1/2J and 3/4A
school fees and payments was distributed. One fee requested was a voluntary contribution of $100 for our building and grounds and school library. These funds ensure that we are able to provide great learning spaces and resources for your child. Payment is voluntary but very much appreciated. We thank the families who have made a contribution and encourage all families to consider making a contribution. If $100 is not feasible for your family we are more than happy for you to choose an appropriate amount. Payment can be made at the school office or by BPAY if you are yet to contribute.

In line with our emergency management plan and DET guidelines today we had a practice emergency drill known as a ‘lockdown’. A lockdown is where students and teachers remain in their classroom with the doors and windows locked until further notice. The students are moved away from windows and doors. This procedure is activated when there is an external threat.

To continue to build our partnership and provide a positive transition from pre-school to school, Bernadette will be visiting the Maldon Preschool on Tuesday.

On Wednesday 18th May we have our school Open Day for new and prospective parents. It is from 9:30am – 11:00am. If you know of anyone with a pre school student please encourage them to come along.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening this week?

• Jodie will be absent on Wednesday.
• Debra will be attending training all day Wednesday and will be absent Friday afternoon so it would be appreciated if non-urgent office matters could be held over until she is back in the office.

What’s happening in the classroom?

Whole school behaviour this week: Working cooperatively with others.

Young leaders:

Young Leaders Friday FUNdraiser

Please leave orders with your classroom teacher.

Available each Friday are: Homemade Sausage rolls $2.50, Juice Box $1.50, Popcorn $1.00

Office info

Financial statements: All families with outstanding fees and charges received a financial statement two weeks ago. It would be appreciated if all outstanding charges could be settled immediately. Please see Debra in the office if you have any questions or need to arrange a payment plan. A reminder to families that charges can be paid using BPAY, cash or cheque. Individual BPAY details are contained on your statement or can be obtained from the office.

Term 2 netbook instalments overdue: We still have several families with overdue term 2 netbook instalments. The instalment of $25 must be paid by Friday 6th May otherwise students will no longer be permitted to take their netbooks home. If payment is a problem please contact Debra or Jodie to discuss alternative payment plans.

Grade 5/6 camp:

• The parent consent form and medical information form must be returned to the office by Wednesday 18th May, 2016.
• Payment for the camp must be finalised by Wednesday 25th May. If payment is a problem please contact Debra or Jodie to discuss alternative payment plans.
Permission notes to be returned:
- Gr 5 and 6 photo permission forms for the Kids as Catalyst program should be returned to the office immediately.
- Gr Prep to 2 Werribee Zoo excursion permission slip and payment is due on Tuesday 10th May.
- Gr 3 to 6 Orienteering excursion permission slip and payment is due on Wednesday May 11th.

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.

School banking: As part of our community connections we offer a school banking facility in conjunction with the Maldon and District Community Bank. If your child has a Bendigo Bank account they can drop their deposit at the office on a Tuesday and their passbook will be returned to them by the end of the week. This is a great way to encourage students to save from an early age. If you would like your child to participate but they don’t have an account the staff at the bank in High St would be more than happy to open an account for you.

What’s happening in the school yard?

Working Bee: The first of two working bees for 2016 will be held on Sunday May 22nd from 9am to 12pm. Please save the date in your diary!

Vegie gardens: Thanks to the hard work of Jess Dona-Doni and Marton Gross our raised vegie gardens have been reworked, irrigated and planted with vegie seedlings donated by Buda in Castlemaine. The school has a keen group of student gardeners who assisted with the planting and will also be watering and caring for the seedlings. The next project is the reworking of the wick garden which will take place in coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Sports shed upgrade: The 2015 Race the Train fundraiser raised money to upgrade the sport shed and over the weekend the upgrade commenced with weatherboards being replaced and painted. The upgrade should be finished by the middle of May which is very exciting for all students and is particularly fulfilling for those students who participated in the fundraiser.

Lost
- An orange hoodie with white printing on the front was misplaced on the 3/4 camp. If you have the hoodie at home please return it to the office.

School community

Grandparents and special friends day: A big thank you to Shelley Carmichael, Anita Mason and their team of helpers for organising another very successful Grandparents and special friends afternoon.
**Sport meeting:** The next sport meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th May at 9.35am in the staff room. Please feel free to attend as the more members and ideas the better!

**Host families needed for Japanese students from 3rd-7th August (4 nights):** If you are interested in hosting two primary aged Japanese students for four nights, during the annual Shizuoka student’s visit from 3rd-7th August, please see Debra at the office for more information and an expression of interest form. Host families will be paid $180 per student.

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**SHIZUOKA STUDENTS’ VISIT TO SHIRE OF MT ALEXANDER AUGUST 2016**

**INVITATION TO FAMILIES TO HOST JAPANESE STUDENTS**

This year students from Shizuoka in Japan will visit the Shire of Mount Alexander for the eighteenth time. A group of about 70 students will be visiting us from Wednesday 3 August to Sunday 7 August. The main purpose of the visit is to share culture and friendship. The students’ school levels will range from Year 5 to Year 9. They will be billeted by families of students from Castlemaine Secondary College and a number of primary schools in the shire. Highlights of their stay will include experiencing family life with their host families, joining us with our students in school activities and visiting some local tourism attractions.

Our friendship with the people of Shizuoka has been further enhanced by two very successful visits to Japan in 2013 and 2015 involving small groups of secondary students. The respective communities of Shizuoka and the Shire of Mount Alexander continue to value this program very highly and the continued support of our school communities is integral to the continuation of its success.

So if you are thinking of taking part in the program this year, that’s great. We would be very grateful if you could also encourage other families to be involved too.

Host families will provide accommodation, meals, transport and friendly hospitality for our Japanese guests from the Wednesday evening to the Sunday morning. During the weekdays the students will be involved with school and other activities in the local area as well as a farewell party on the Saturday evening. Saturday, otherwise, will be an individual family day. To help ensure that the experience is as rewarding as possible for both hosts and guests, appropriate information and support will be available. Host families will also receive payment for their service.

Students and families who may be interested in being involved in the bilateral program can obtain more detailed information, a host family profile form and specific Working With Children Check information from the school office. These are also available by email request to Peter Nunnan (peter.nunnan@hotmail.com). The completed form etc should be returned to the school office by Friday 13 May.

Everyone over the age of 18 years in a host family is required by the Department of Education to complete a ‘Working with Children Check’ (WWCC). This is a simple procedure, cost free to volunteer. Your information pack will contain a sheet outlining the application procedure. WWCCs remain current for three years. If you have a current WWCC card from a school, your work or other community organisation, we simply require a photocopy with your completed host family profile.

The pairs of Japanese students will be matched as well as possible with our families according to ages, gender and interests. Matching information will be sent to families by email.

For further information please contact Peter Nunnan on 0459362158 or email as above.

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**Before and after school care:** To make life a little easier enrolments and bookings for before and after school care can now be done online. Visit bendigo.ymca.org.au and follow the links to our Before and After School Care page. Don’t forget too…use it or you may lose it!

**Fresh Fruit Friday:**

**This week’s volunteers:** Shelley Woods and Jo Fraser

**Next week’s volunteers:** Shelley Carmichael and Bec Hamilton
Extra curricular catch up

P/1 visit to the Athenaeum library:

50th Anniversary of Maldon’s declaration as a Notable Town: At assembly recently, the Mount Alexander Shire mayor, Christine Henderson, was our guest speaker. She presented all students with a commemorative coin to celebrate 50 years since Maldon was declared the first Notable Town by the National Trust of Australia. The students were very excited to receive their special coin...some even asked what they could buy with it!
Junior soccer

Calling all 11 & 12 year olds, why not play soccer in 2016.

High Quality FFA training, great team environment, fun & friends.
All matches in Castlemaine & surrounds...

Register Now

castlemainsoccer@bigpond.com.au

Small Sided Soccer Kicks Off

Friday May 13th
4.30-5.30pm

Registration open now


Reconciliation Week 2016

26th May—2nd June

National Sorry Day Thursday 26 May

Castlemaine Secondary College, Blandley Road
9.00 - 10.30 am Flag & Smoking Ceremony
Student Participation, Morning Tea
PUBLIC ALL WELCOME

Reconciliation Week

Official Opening Ceremony & Awards
Friday 27th May, 10am to 12 noon
‘Our History, Our Story, Our Future’
Phoe Broadway Theatre
Indigenous Speakers & Photographic Display
Light lunch
ALL WELCOME
Display open all week 9-5pm

Monday 30th May

Storytelling at the Library
Kindergarten Session

Tues 31st May, Wed 1st & Thurs 2nd June

Sharing The Teachings—Primary School Sessions

Further Information contact Cath Butler 0457 515 899 or Kath Curl 0432 656 007

Indigenous History Walk
Bookings Essential 5479 1000 Places Limited

Thursday 2nd June 2pm

Mural Launch, The Forge, 341 Barkers Road
All welcome

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Highly experienced teachers.
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