Principal’s chat

We had a great turn out last Friday at our Mother’s Day afternoon tea. Many mums, grandmothers and special friends came along to enjoy the delicious treats made by the children. Many of the mums also enjoyed looking at work produced by their children and some were lucky enough to receive a neck massage and have their nails painted. It was a fun afternoon for all involved!!

A big thank you to the teachers who adjusted their timetables to incorporate planning and preparation for the day. They also did a great job working with the students to get their rooms ready. Well done!

This week our grade 3 and 5 students will be sitting the NAPLAN tests. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. NAPLAN tests the skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second complete week in May. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of:

- Reading (Wednesday)
- Writing (Tuesday)
- Language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) (Tuesday)
- Numeracy (Thursday)

It is important to remember that NAPLAN is one piece of assessment for your child and is a snapshot of information about your child at that moment.
in time. The students have had the opportunity to experience test conditions over the past weeks to minimise anxiety and to ensure that they feel confident when completing the tests. Good luck to the students who are taking part in the Division Cross Country on Friday. Just a reminder that next Monday is a Pupil Free day. Staff will be taking part in professional development with Lyn Watts focusing on numeracy and literacy. Next Wednesday is also our Open morning so please encourage anyone with potential students to come along and have a look at our school and what we have to offer. Finally, don’t forget our working bee on Sunday May 22nd. A lot is happening in the next few weeks!

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening this week?

• Debra will be attending training all day Wednesday 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?

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Due to safety concerns it is requested that students do NOT bring food to school which needs to be heated eg. noodles, pies etc.

______________________________

Whole school behaviour this week: Caring for my environment.

4/5D Maths: 4/5D had a great time combining their orienteering skills and subtraction skills in a maths scavenger hunt around the school yard. They also practised our whole school behaviour “working co-operatively with others”. Pairs had to work co-operatively to read a map to find work stations and then solve subtraction problems. Each station revealed a letter which was needed to decode a hidden message!

Young leaders:

Available each Friday are: Homemade Sausage rolls $2.50, Juice Box $1.50, Popcorn $1.00
Financial statements: It would be appreciated if families could settle outstanding charges for 2016 as soon as possible. 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: Term 2 netbook instalments of $25 are now well overdue and students will not be permitted to take their netbooks home until payment is made. 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 tomorrow, Tuesday 10th May.
- Gr 3 to 6 Orienteering excursion permission slip and payment is due this Wednesday May 11th.

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.

School banking: Don’t forget to drop Bendigo Bank deposits at the office before 9.30am on Tuesday mornings if you would like to utilise the school banking program. Passbooks will be returned to students by the end of the week.

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. Jobs include spreading mulch around trees, spreading soft fall for the playground, preparing firewood for a raffle, removing dead trees and creating a new sandpit. Please bring along tools which you think will be useful eg. shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, gardening gloves, pruning saws etc. There will be tea and coffee available and a sausage sizzle is also being organised so come along and help to get the grounds into shape for the enjoyment of all the children.

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
Help wanted: Liz has been busy purchasing more readers for the classroom and is again looking for help to cover them. If you are able to cover 10 books please let Debra at the office know and Liz will organise the books and contact ready for pick up from the office on Thursday.

Sport meeting: The next sport meeting will be held this 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. Hosting the students is very rewarding and lots of fun for both you and your children so please consider being a host for 2016. Host families will be paid $180 per student.
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 Carmichael and Bec Hamilton

Next week’s volunteers: Anita Mason and Millie Ousley

**Extra curricular catch up**

3/4 Problem Solving morning: Last Tuesday four students from Grades 3 and 4 participated in a problem solving morning at St Mary’s in Castlemaine. Students participated in small mixed school teams of four to solve a range of mathematical problems. Here are some comments from the students who participated:

**Liam W** - It was pretty good and I would like to go again. I really enjoyed the google maps.

**Harrison** - It was excellent and I would like to go again. I enjoyed using calculators and working out problems.

**Amabel** - My favourite part was doing number mastermind because it was a game of chance and I like chance.

**Alice** - I liked going in groups as it was with people from other schools. The activities were really fun!

Mother’s Day celebration: