Principal’s chat

This week our Swim and Survive program commences for all students in grades Prep-6. We have three qualified instructors who will run the program each day. Every class attends for a half hour lesson and teachers and staff supervise. Thank you to all the families who returned the swimming capabilities form for their child as it helps to ensure that your child is in the right swimming group for their ability. If a form was not returned then students start in the lower ability group until their ability can be determined by the instructors.

The program runs for two weeks and concludes on Friday 24th February with our Swimming Carnival. It is a great day for parents to come along and see their child participate in a range of events and we also need a range of helpers on the day. A form will go home this week asking for volunteers. Hopefully the weather warms up in time!!

As part of our Learning Technologies ESmart Policy ‘At Maldon Primary School, we recognise the need for students to be safe, responsible and respectful users of digital technologies. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe and responsible online behaviours is essential, and is best taught in partnership with parents/guardians. We request that parents/guardians work with us and encourage this behaviour at home. We have developed this policy to assist students and teachers to use a whole range of technologies appropriately.’

Today every child will receive an acceptable use agreement and in line with our school policy this needs to be signed by both student and parent and returned to school to ensure that your child can access the full range of technology at school. Teachers will also spend time in class discussing the use of digital technology in the classroom. The Learning Technologies Esmart policy can be found on our school website.

I would like to welcome Jaimee Rice to our staff. Jaimee will be teaching the students Japanese one day per fortnight. The students are very excited to be learning Japanese and it is a great way to prepare for our visitors from Japan in August.

Although the weather was hot last Thursday we welcomed many families to our school picnic. It was a great evening and a chance for everyone to chat and get to know each other. Each class also did a small presentation about things that they have been learning over the past two weeks. The Prep/1s were bucket fillers, the grade 1/2s sang us a song, grade 3/4 told us a story, grade 4/5 talked about school rules and grade 5/6 created a rap song. Many thanks to everyone who came along.
Over the past few weeks I have been working with our grade 6 students to refine some of our policies and procedures in relation to school captains, house captains and the responsibilities of our student leaders. Working together we have developed a roles and responsibility statement for both school captain and house captain and a procedure for nomination and election of our captains. We have been through the nomination process and have had several grade 6 students nominate for school captain and also house captain. We have also opened up the nominations for house captain to our grade 5s due to the low number of nominations from grade 6 students.

On Tuesday at 2:20pm all of the students who have nominated for a position will be reading a speech to the school community at assembly then all students in grades 2-6 and staff will vote. The results of the voting will be announced on Wednesday. Parents are welcome to come along to the whole school assembly tomorrow at 2:20pm.

Next week staff will be presenting an information night for parents. It is a great opportunity for parents to come along and see what happens in the classroom every day. It is also an opportunity for you to understand how you can support your child at home and work in partnership with the school. The grade 3-6 session will also cover the netbook information that is required before students in grade 4-6 can take their netbooks home. A note will be sent home tomorrow in regards to the information sessions but times are as follows:

GRADE 3-6
Monday 20th February 6.00pm – 7.30pm
GRADE PREP-2
Wednesday 22nd February 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening this week?
- Both Jodie and Debra will be absent on Friday so please keep non-urgent visits to the office and phone calls until their return on Monday.

What’s happening in the classroom?

Munch and Crunch time: Just a reminder that we ask that all students bring a piece of fruit or vegetable for munch and crunch time at 10:00am every day.

Food allergy reminder: A reminder to all families that we have students at Maldon Primary school with severe allergies to nuts. In the interests of the safety of all students we strongly suggest that no child brings food which has nuts or traces of nuts to school.

Crossing safety with Ray: On Thursday morning Ray volunteered to show the Prep/1 class how to use the school crossing safely. They learnt a song and walked across the crossing together. Ray reminded the students not to play with balls near the road, and to remind their mums, dads and carers not to talk on the phone when we are crossing the road.
**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.

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**School community**

**After school care:** Castlemaine Child Care offers after school care at Maldon Primary school. The program operates from 3.15pm – 6.00pm and there are still some vacancies available. If you would like to use the service please contact Castlemaine Child Care on 5472 3665.

**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:** Thank you to the families who have volunteered to assist with Fresh Fruit Friday in terms 1 and 2. Whilst we have sufficient volunteers for term 1 we still have some gaps in the term 2 roster so if you can help out please return the pink form (sent home last week) to the office immediately or let Debra know. The roster will be distributed on Wednesday so it would be fantastic if we could get a few more volunteers before then.

**Volunteers for this week:** Shelley Woods and Emilie Hanson

**Volunteers for next week:** Anita Mason and Shelley Woods

**Class contacts for 2017:** Thank you to Shelley C (3/4D), Anita (6C) and Nicole (4/5H) for volunteering to be class contacts for 2017. We still require class contacts for Prep/1A and 1/2J. 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 Prep/1A or 1/2J in 2017.

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**Office Information**

**Student enrolment details:** Thank you to all families who have returned their Student Enrolment Details forms. All families are asked to check the details on the form, make any necessary changes and return them to the office by **Monday 20th February** so that our student files can be updated. **All forms must be signed and returned even if there are no alterations to be made.**

**Financial statements:** Last week financial statements were sent home to those families who have outstanding charges for the 2017 school year. It would be appreciated if payment of these charges could be made as soon as possible by cash, cheque or BPay. We are happy to accept small regular payments if you are unable to pay the charges all at once. Please see Debra at the office if you would like to arrange this.

**Late arrivals:** A reminder to all families that if you arrive late to school you MUST sign in at the office. Rolls are marked first thing in the morning and consequently students may be marked as absent for the day if they are not signed in as a late arrival.

**Camps, Sport and Excursions fund:** A reminder to eligible families that applications for the 2017 CSEF 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 need more information regarding eligibility for CSEF.**

**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.
**Fundraising news**

**Bunnings BBQ fundraiser:** We have been allocated Sunday 28th May for a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser. Keep the date free!

**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.

**Extra curricular catch up**

![INSTRUMENT LESSONS](image)

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

$22/lesson  
Ph. 0407 502 438  
drewthorpe@gmail.com  
Facebook: Drew Thorpe Music—DTM  
www.dtm.australia.com.au

**Community**

**OASIS KID'S CLUB**

- Starting: 23rd February  
- Thursdays: 3.20pm to 4.45pm  
- Venue: Baptist church hall, corner Templeton & Edward Streets, Maldon  
- Leaders: Gavin & Julie Alexander  
- Got questions? 5475 2338 or 0458 084 728

OASIS (aka Good News club) is an energy-filled, multi-media program for primary school children, which answers children’s questions about the Christian faith. There’s lots of fun activities, games, craft, songs, videos and... afternoon tea! All children welcome.

The program is provided free of charge. No obligations. All leaders have a Working With Children Check and the church’s Child Safety and Code of Conduct policies meet the Victorian government’s new Child Safe Standards law effective 1 January 2017.

**The Castlemaine Football Netball Club (CFNC) Juniors** will be entering the following teams in the BJFL for 2017. Under 9, under 10, under 12 boys and under 12 girls. The club invites all eligible boys and girls to register to play in 2017 via Team App which can be downloaded to a smart phone or laptop. Download the App and search for Castlemaine Junior Football. The club is hosting a meet the coaches day on Thursday 2 March from 5.00 pm to 6.30pm at the camp reserve which includes a free sausage sizzle. The club provides a safe and supportive environment for children of all ages to play this great game and we wish to build upon the success of our 2016 under 12 girls team and encourage all players and families to get involved. For any further information contact Ivor McGibbon on 0421059871.