Principal’s chat

Welcome back to the last term of the year – term 4. I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break.

Over the holidays many things have been happening, and I think that it is very important to start with some exciting news that was shared in ‘The Australian’ newspaper on Saturday. On the front page it was shared that Maldon Primary School has been named in the top 5 most improved primary schools in Australia. Schools in the country were analysed according to data shared on the My Schools website and we were determined to be the 4th most improved primary school in Australia over the past three years. This is a really great achievement, especially as we began our school improvement journey only three years ago. To see that all the hard work has paid off, and has been acknowledged, is really exciting for staff and for our whole school community. It shows that we are on the right path and should be really proud of our achievements. We are looking forward to continuing our journey, striving to be the best that we can be and striving to provide the very best education possible for your children.

The works on the building have been in full swing over the holidays and it is exciting to see it all starting to come together. Some of the works that have been completed include:

- The hallways have been painted.
- The admin area, including the staff area, now has the framework for the kitchen, toilet and student first aid area.
- The mezzanine extension above the staff room has flooring.
- All asbestos (sheeting on fire place areas) has been removed so the main building is now asbestos free.
- The south classrooms have been painted and they look very fresh and clean.
- The storm water has been repaired to allow flow of water so that there...
is no stagnant water in the pits.

Our new after school care program is nearly here... we are just waiting for confirmation of a start date. All families who have enrolled should already have been contacted directly by family day care. Any questions or queries please contact Mt Alexander family day care on 03 5472 3665.

Over the holiday period we have had some wild and windy weather which caused one of the big trees in the yard, up near the swimming pool, to uproot and come down. It will be removed this week. The shade sail over the playground area, which was damaged in a previous bout of wild weather, was also reinstalled.

Some disappointing news from the holidays was that, in the early hours of Friday morning, the school was broken into and some of our netbook computers were stolen. At this stage we believe that we are missing six netbooks with a full audit to be completed over the next couple of days. Some damage was done to some door frames and they are currently under repair. The police are investigating the incident so if you have any information in regards to this crime please call Castlemaine Police on 5470 4100.

This month we are taking part in Walk to School Month. VicHealth’s Walk to School month encourages primary school children to walk, ride or scoot to and from school throughout October, to help them get the 60 minutes of physical activity they need each day. Less than one in five Victorian kids walk to school regularly, at a time when childhood obesity is rising to epidemic levels. Since 2006, VicHealth’s Walk to School has aimed to tackle this worrying trend by encouraging Victorian primary students to walk to and from school more often.

Younger children are encouraged to walk with their parents and older children on their own (when their parents decide it's safe). October is a great time to start walking, because Victoria’s fabulous spring sunshine makes it a pleasure to get out of the house, and the car! Children who take part will be building healthy habits for life – and could win some great prizes for their family and the school.

In the last week of term three, we held our School Concert. It was a great afternoon and night of entertainment that explored the theme “Australia”. It was a fantastic night and the student’s should be very proud of their achievements. A big well done to Mary for all her hard work and effort in preparing the students. It is a big effort for someone who only works at our school one day per week. Many thanks to the parents who helped out with costumes and also to Kim Berry and her family for setting up and cleaning up after the supper.

More concert photos can be found under Extra Curricular Catch Up below and on the website.

It is that time of the year again when we start the count down to MARKET DAY on October 29th!!! Our committee, consisting of Jodie, Nicole, Debra and Anita, have been very busy ensuring that everything is in place and ready for the big day. Market Day is our biggest fundraiser for the year and we need all families to help out to ensure that it is successful. We need your help, especially on the day, so please keep the date free to volunteer for a few hours. Later this week a form will be sent home for you to fill out indicating when you can help out. Your support for our biggest fundraiser for the year is very much appreciated. Just remember that all of the funds raised are for the benefit of all the students at our school including your children.

Warm regards
Jodie
Fundraising news

Market Day raffle: A reminder to all families to sell your book/s of raffle tickets and return them to the office as soon as possible. More books are available from the office and remember that there will be a prize for the family who sells the most tickets.

School community

Head lice: School is back and so are the head lice! We have had several cases of head lice infestation reported to the office. Please ensure that you regularly check your children for head lice and treat if necessary.

Health and Wellbeing group: The Health and Wellbeing Group will be reconvening in Term 4. At this stage, the meetings will be on Wednesday or Thursday at a time still to be decided. Please email me on grainger.elizabeth.a@edumail.vic.gov.au with a time that would suit you. All welcome.

Fresh Fruit Friday:

This week's volunteers: Patricia Gilbert and Genna Hines

Next week's volunteers: Ken Hercott and Nicole Funston

NAPLAN results for Grades 3 and 5: If you would like a copy of your child’s 2016 NAPLAN results then please make an appointment time with your child’s teacher.

Student banking:

What’s happening in the classroom?

Footy colours day: The casual clothes day and movie on the last day of term 3 raised $190.30 for the Fight Cancer Foundation.

Friday fundraiser:

Young Leaders Friday FUNdraiser

Please leave orders with your classroom teacher.

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

**Book club issue 7**: Brochures for issue 7 of Scholastic book club have been sent home with students today. Orders can be placed and paid for online at scholastic.com.au/LOOP or can be submitted at the office. All orders must be received by **Monday 17th October**.

**Term 4 netbook instalments**: If you have a child in Grade 4,5 or 6 and have elected to pay the netbook lease fee in instalments the term 4 instalment of $25 is due this Friday October 7th, 2016.

**Permission notes and payments to be returned**:

- Prep to 2 Maths Day permission form and payment is due back this **Wednesday 5th October**

**Online newsletter and permission slips**: A reminder to all families that the weekly newsletter and current permission slips are available on the front page of the school website [www.maldonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.maldonps.vic.edu.au).

**2017 enrolments**: A reminder that if you have a child commencing in Prep in 2017 we would appreciate it if you could complete and return their enrolment papers as soon as possible.

**Extra curricular catch up**

**Division Athletics**: Congratulations to all students who competed in the Division Athletics competition in Bendigo on Monday September 12th with a special congratulations to Theresa for achieving a 3rd place in the shot put final for her age group.

Due to illness term 4 instrumental music lessons will not commence until next week.

**More concert photos**:

**Student achievements**

- Congratulations to Theresa, Tayah, Grace, Forest and Caitlyn for being a part of the Under 13 Maldon Football Netball Club netball team which took out the grand final over the holidays.
- Over the holidays the Maldon Football Netball club held their Best and Fairest Awards Presentation Day and many Maldon Primary students achieved awards. Congratulations to:
  
  **Tom Smith** – Best Team Man Under 11.5 football
  **Brodie Doyle** – Most Improved Player Under 11.5 football
  **Callan Healy** – Coaches Award Under 11.5 football
  **Caitlyn Phillips** – Most Improved Player Under 13 netball
  **Grace Alford-Koolen** – Most Valuable Player and Runner Up Best and Fairest Under 13 netball
  **Theresa Buchanan** – Honourable Mention Under 13 netball
Community

Boys Brains
Castlemaine

This workshop will give insight into the workings of a boy's brain and how their needs are different to girls. It will provide practical strategies to help parents and carers understand boy's needs and how to meet them.

Term 4, 2016
When: Thursday 20th October 2016
Time: Arrive and registration 5.45pm
Session 6:00pm - 8.30pm
Where: Castlemaine Kindergarten, 7-9 Berkeley Street, Castlemaine
Cost: Free
Childcare: Sorry, child care is not provided
Facilitators: Neville and Anne-Marie (Family Education Services)

For bookings and enquiries contact Castlemaine
Kindergarten on 5472 1495

The Maldon Athenaeum Library
PRESS RELEASE
Gideon Haigh

Award Winning Journalist/Author is coming to Maldon
Gideon has been a journalist for more than thirty years, contributing numerous articles to newspapers and magazines, written thirty books, twenty about cricket, and edited seven others, including Maldon Cricket Club's Annual. He is a regular contributor on the ABC's Offsides sporting program where his insights and use of language take sporting commentary to another level. He has worked at The Age, The Australian, The Independent Monthly, and in London.

Described as an Australian bush cricketer at its best, stronger than any crime-fiction Certain Admissions is the compelling and successful true story of twenty-four-year-old John Bryam Kerr, son of the establishment, a suave and handsome commercial radio star dabbling at Scotch College, and Harold Holt's Toorak next-door neighbour, who in 1969 was charged and ultimately convicted of the murder of 20-year-old Beth Williams.

Gid's book On Warne has won multiple awards and was shortlisted for the Australian Book Industry Awards Biography of the Year, the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, the Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature: The Office won the NSW Premier's Literary Awards Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction. Other recent titles include Uncertain Corridors: Writings on Australian Cricket, End of the Road: On Australia’s Automotive Industry, and The Descended, about music in a crisis era.

Gideon is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker to be on crime, Warne, The Cubs, or the past and future of Australian Cricket. And yes, he plays cricket too having been a club cricketer since he was nine.

Gid will speak at the Maldon Athenaeum Centre, Scenic Street, Maldon starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are $20 a head and can be obtained in person from the Athenaeum Library (High Street), The Grand Restaurant (Main Street) or by telephone: (03) 5475 1371, lo 4975 1300, by 0413 136616 (see attached ticket).

In order to receive your dinner menu, bookings are recommended and people are encouraged to get in early for this once-off special event. Last minute rejections are included.

Indenifying Family Violence Training
Common Risk Assessment Framework (Stage 1)

Wednesday 19th October
9.30am-11.30am
Castlemaine Health, Auditorium

This FREE training is being delivered as part of the Mt Alexander Family Violence Forum to increase staff and service capacity to identify and respond to family violence across the region.

To book your place today go to www.trybooking.com/NGLHL

For further information contact Shelly Lavery 54725333
Community continued

**Toddlers**

Maldon

This workshop will give parents and carers of toddlers the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with others. We will discuss toddler development and the joys and challenges this stage brings to your family. Discussion will also focus on parenting strategies you may use for this age group.

**Term 4, 2016**

**When:** Monday 7th November 2016

**Time:** Welcome and registration 12.15pm
Session 12.30pm - 2.30pm

**Where:** Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr Church & Edwards Street, Maldon

**Cost:** Free

**Childcare:** Available

**Facilitators:** Family Education Services Team - CatholicCare Sandhurst

Groups are subject to minimum and maximum numbers determined seven working days prior to commencement date. Early registration is encouraged.

For bookings and enquiries phone Amy on 5475 2093 or info@maldonnc.org.au

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**Castlemaine Circus Inc.**

**Term 4 ENROLLMENTS NOW OPEN**

"We love how we feel when we fly up into the air!"

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For more information, visit www.castlemainecircus.com.au

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**Bendigo Agricultural Show**

Fridays 21st and Saturdays 22nd October

Featuring entertainment by Rooftop Express!

Show prize schedule out now

Junior and school section entries close 5th October

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Would you like your child to socialise with children their own age?

Do you sometimes need some time to yourself?

Our wonderful Occasional Child Care service is available every Monday.

Enrolment packs are available from the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

Enrol your child today!

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The facility for the National Youth Violence Program is funded by Commonwealth and State Funding. This Commonwealth contribution 100% and the Victorian Government funds 50% and also endorses the program.