Principal’s chat

Last Thursday our school community came together for a family picnic in the school yard. It was great to see families old and new enjoying a chat and a laugh. Each class did a small presentation on one of our school values. It was all focused around taking pride in ourselves and our school by demonstrating excellence, having resilience, showing integrity and being respectful.

A big, big thank you to all the parents who helped out with the Bunnings sausage sizzle on Sunday and to Wayne, Kate and Nicole for coordinating the event. The day was a success and raised almost $1,000 for our school. It was also great to see some students there helping out.

Next Monday 22nd February, our Grade 1/2 students will be taken on a virtual excursion to the Melbourne Museum’s Dinosaur exhibition. This term they are learning about dinosaurs and I have been communicating with the Melbourne Museum about how we could give our students an experience at the Museum without the huge travel costs. They were more than eager to work with us to provide the students with the experience. On Monday morning we will link in with the museum via computer and camera – we will be able to see the tour guide and they will be able to see us. Students will also be able to ask questions. It is very important that students are at school on time on this day. The session commences at 9.15am.

This year all our grade 6 students will be recognised as student leaders at our school. I have had many discussions with students around what a student leader is and their roles and responsibilities. From our Grade 6 student leadership group, two school captains and two vice captains were elected. Students nominated for the roles and then were elected by their peers and teachers.

Congratulations to:

School captains: Grace (left) and Nicholas (absent)
School vice captains: Himal (middle) and Sonya (right)
Here is a snapshot of our student leader, school captain and vice captain agreement:

SHOW RESPECT FOR OTHERS AND FOR LEARNING
Speaking politely to teachers and adults.
Speaking politely to other students.
Engaging in learning in all subjects by participating fully – asking and answering questions.
Completing tasks to the best of my ability, offering assistance to others, working quietly in independent learning time and being persistent in my effort.

ACT AS A ROLE MODEL FOR ALL MALDON PRIMARY STUDENTS
I will treat visitors to our school with respect and courtesy.
I will demonstrate I am a polite audience member by facing the front (towards the presenter), by listening courteously and by putting my hand up to ask or answer questions.
I will show respect by applauding in an appropriate manner.
I will actively model the school’s values.
I will engage in and model appropriate playground behaviour and will willingly assist other children in the playground.
I will wear school uniform appropriately.

ACT AS A STUDENT LEADER
I will demonstrate active leadership by taking the initiative.
I will model appropriate interactions with school staff and bring matters of concern to teachers.
I will represent the school in a polite and positive manner at all school functions.
I will assist in the organisation and meetings of student leadership groups.

Our Swim and Survive program is continuing in to its second and final week. So far it has been great to see all students participating and developing their skills. I look forward to the swimming carnival on Friday. On Tuesday we will have a house team meeting where all students will meet in their house team and make some signs and decorations for the day.

On Friday:
- Students are to wear their house colours and can also wear their bathers to school.
- All students are to report to their classroom teacher when they arrive at school.
- Teachers will take the attendance roll and students will then be sent to their house teams.
- Students will walk to the pool with their house team at 9.15am.
- Parents are invited to make their way to the Maldon pool ready for a 9.30am start.
- Parents are needed to assist with a range of jobs on the day, such as time keeping, lane marshalling etc. Please let us know at the office if you are able to help out on the day.

Just a reminder that our classroom information sessions are being held this week

Tuesday 16th, 7.00pm – 8.00pm: Senior Unit (Gr 3-6)
Thursday 18th, 6.30pm -7.30pm: Junior Unit (Gr P-2)

Teachers have been very busy organising the sessions, so it will be great to see as many parents there as possible. The sessions will focus on

Birthdays
Alex, Madisyn, Phinny and Francis

Creativity award
Ethan

Being an active listener awards
L to R: Harrison, Josh, Meg, Sophie and Izaak

Come along cup - 5/6B

Early birdie award – 5/6B
what happens every day in your child’s classroom, what they are taught and how they learn.

In response to feedback from our school community, our information sessions are being held later in the evening to accommodate more parents, including those who work, so please make sure that you take the time to come along.

This year parent teacher interviews will be held over two afternoons – Tuesday 23rd February and Wednesday 24th February. This will ensure that we can spend 15 minutes with each parent. They will run from 1.30pm – 6.00pm. Tomorrow an allocated time will be sent home.

Next Tuesday 23rd February, from 7.00pm – 8.00pm, a netbook session will be held for all grade 4-6 parents. The session will address the use of school netbooks and any questions that you may have in regards to the contract. It will also address safety with computer use and the internet and other cyber safety topics.

Our school council AGM will be held on March 9th.

Our school council consists of 12 members - 8 parent and 4 DET representatives.

This year we have 4 parent vacancies on school council – Nominations are now open and close on February 24th at 4.00pm.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself. Nomination forms can be obtained from the office.

- Your nomination form needs to be returned within the time stated on the notice of election and call for nominations.
- Ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions to fill.
- School councillors are elected for a two year term of office. Half the members retire each year but they can stand for re-election.

Here is some information about school council:

What are the functions of a school council?
- The functions of a school council are outlined in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In essence, the function is one of helping to set the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight of the school's operation. It is not about running the school – that is the job of the principal.

What are the objectives of school council?
A school council's objectives are described in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The objectives are to:
- Assist in the efficient governance of the school.
- Ensure that its decisions affecting students of the school are made having regard, as a primary consideration, to the best interests of the students.
- Enhance the educational opportunities of the students at the school.
- Ensure the school and council comply with any requirements of the Act, the Regulations, a Ministerial Order, direction, guideline or DET policy.
- Councillors' responsibilities relate to the good of the whole school, not just one section of it.
- School council members need to be able to work as a team. That means respecting the different skills, knowledge and experience that each member brings to council and sharing the workload, with everyone contributing and sharing responsibility.
- It follows that school council also needs to be able to work cooperatively with the parents and staff at the school. This does not mean that councillors have to like everyone, rather they need to be able to listen and ask the school community, and sometimes the wider community, about their views on topics that council might be considering.

Why join school council?
- Being on school council is a great way to get involved and have a real say in what your school is doing for its students. You get to both learn a lot and contribute a lot.
- Being on school council is a very good way to help present and future students of the school. One of the roles of school council is to help set the future direction for the school.
- Some school councillors have also found that their children have a greater sense of belonging with the school.

Do I have what it takes to be on school council?
- You need to be keen, but you don’t need to be an expert.
- It helps if you like people and you do need to be able to work as a team member.
• You do need to be prepared to commit the time and effort needed to ensure the work of council gets done. (The workload is discussed in more detail later in the presentation.)
• School councils work best when they have people who have a variety of different backgrounds and who have different experiences.

How much work is involved?

• School council meets at least 8 times in each school year, and at least once per school term.
• Meetings start at 6.30pm and conclude at 8.00pm

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Warm regards
Jodie

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What’s happening in the classroom?

Whole school behaviour this week: Making no excuses

Here are a few ideas:

• Taking responsibility for your actions
• Being organised i.e. remember to read every day and bring your diary to school
• Not blaming others
• Taking risks and trying new things

Sizzling starters in Brett’s class: In writing Brett’s class has been working on “sizzling starters” which capture the reader’s attention. Here are a few for you to enjoy:

I can’t see mum or dad in the crowd. I’m all alone, they’ve forgotten me! Beatrice

BANG! I wake up with my heart pounding inside my chest. I instantly run to find Prim and my mum. I find Prim sitting in her bed frozen with fear. I run up to hug her when I hear a scream from down the hall. I run to find my mum gone… Caitlyn

It was just Lucy and I, upside down, not touching the ground, only our hearts left to pound. Grace

As I was mixing the cake mix Sophia came up to me and said “Can I put some toys in the mix?” “No!” I shouted. I went to wash my hands, then… Isabella

Cock-a-doodle-do, imaginary chooks are back. Lochlan

Bang! Boom! I was running for my life. There were gun shots left, right and centre. Kieran

Ouch! My ankle is rolled and my tummy is grumbling, lunch isn’t until another hour. Am I going to last? Theresa

Pow! Smash! Crack! We have no choice but to run. Xavior

I was studying a zebra fish when a shark snuck up behind me. Austin

“Come on we have to move!” I scream as the gates start to close. “We’re not gonna make it!” Nick

A wave hits the ocean and the entire town could hear. Darius

It was about 10 years ago when Kate and I were in the very depths of hell. Kirstdey

I hear the chord of an E on a guitar…an awesome song is played. Jacob

Wow! I just made my first cake and can’t wait to eat it. 10 minutes later I take a bite and bang! Aleara

The cold snap of the previous week was over; the sun finally came out. Josh

I’m gonna push the button! Reuben

Help needed for inquiry learning: Danica is in need of parents/volunteers to help with her technology group on a Monday and/or Wednesday afternoon from 2.15pm-3.00pm. Volunteers with sewing skills are required to help Grade 3-6 students to make patterns, cut out material and do some basic sewing. If you have a sewing machine you are able to bring along too that would be fabulous. Please see Danica if you are able to help out.
Office info

**Student enrolment details:** The student enrolment details forms were due back at the office today however we still have **34 outstanding forms**. If you still have your form/s at home please check the details, make any necessary changes and return them to the office *immediately* so that our student files can be updated. **All forms must be returned even if there are no alterations to be made.**

**Camps, Sport and Excursions fund:** A reminder to eligible families that applications for the 2016 CSEF are due back at school by Friday 19th February.

**Bus travellers:** A reminder that all bus travellers must complete a PTV permission form for 2016. The permission form must be completed and returned to the office *immediately* so that we can compile an accurate 2016 bus roll.

**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.

Fundraising news

**Bunnings BBQ** The day went well with a bit of a slow start but the middle shift was crazy and then there was a steady flow of people to the end. The profit after expenses was $921 - not bad for a Sunday BBQ which fell on Valentines Day!! Thank you so much to all the volunteers: Simon Smith, Nathan Sharp, Nathan Anton, Leon Peace, Steve Bennetts, Shane Munro, Helen Curran, Kate Tucker and Wayne Zantuck. A special mention also to the inspiring student sales team who were up selling all the time! Thank you to Will, Isaac and Ryder for a fantastic effort.

School community

**Class contacts for 2016:** We now have three parents who have volunteered to act as class contacts for 2016 but need more. 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. If you are interested in being a class contact for 2016 please let the office or your classroom teacher know a.s.a.p. so that class contacts can be finalised.

**Before and After school care:** The Bendigo Regional YMCA is now offering before and after school care at Maldon Primary school. The program operates 6.45am – 8.45am and 3.15pm – 6.15pm. If you would like to use the service please contact the school for further information or the YMCA on 5445 8300.

**Lost:** Over the school holidays a white girls BIKE disappeared from the school bike shed. If you have seen the bike, or know anything about where it went, please let Debra know at the office.

**Fresh Fruit Friday:**

**This week’s volunteers:** Lauren Wilbern and Kate Mahony

**Next week’s volunteers:** Lauren Wilbern and Shelley Carmichael

**Switch to Save bank funding:** Late last year the school received a $250 donation from the Maldon & District Community Bank®. These funds were raised by the bank as part of the Switch to Save environmental program.

The program replaced, for free, energy-thirsty halogen down lights with energy-efficient LED lights in businesses and residences throughout the district last year.

“For every halogen down light replaced in local households and business, the Maldon Community Bank® distributed $1 to Maldon and Newstead primary schools to undertake sustainable projects,” commented Karly Smith, Executive Officer at the Community Bank.

The money was gratefully received by the school community. The funds will be put towards installing more sustainable lighting throughout the school as part of the renovations which will be taking place this year.

Thank you

- To Lauren Wilbern, Felicity McGoldrick, Bec Hamilton, Kim Berry-Smith and Anita Mason for their work in covering the new take home readers with contact.
Extra curricular catch up

Swim and Survive activity books: A reminder to children to return their Swim and Survive activity books by this Wednesday 17th February to receive 2 house points. Names and class group must be on the front. Any books returned after this date will not receive any points.

Community

OASIS CLUB
Thursdays – after school during school terms - 3.20pm to 4.45pm
Venue: Baptist Church hall (corner Templeton/Edward Streets)
Leaders: Gavin & Julie Alexander (5475 2338 / 0458 084 728)
OASIS (aka Good News club) is an energy-filled, multi-media program for primary school children, where they have lots of fun joining in the activities, games, craft, songs, videos and afternoon tea. It is a really great program to introduce children to the basics of Christian beliefs, with no obligations. The program is provided free of charge. All leaders have a ‘working with children’ check.