Principal’s chat

Today we had a very shivery start to the week with some abnormally cold weather. The weather forecast is showing that it is going to warm up again and we should have some great weather for our swimming carnival on Friday.

Our swimming carnival on Friday starts promptly at 9.30am and concludes at 1.30pm. Every child will compete in several events throughout the day. We need parent helpers on the day to assist with time keeping, handing out ribbons, organisation of events etc. A note has been sent home today, so please return it if you are able to help.

On Thursday 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. House teams are:

FRANKLIN (RED)
TARRENGOWER (BLUE)
NUGGETTY (YELLOW)
ALEXANDER (GREEN)

Please see your child’s teacher or Debra in the office if you do not know what house team your child is in.

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. so please fill out the form and return it to the office if you are able to help out on the day.

We have an extraordinary sports meeting this Wednesday 22nd February at 2.15pm to organise the swimming carnival. Everyone is welcome, so come along and enjoy a coffee and a biscuit and assist with the organisation.

Last week we had a whole school assembly to listen to the speeches from the students who nominated for a student leadership role. Every student who spoke did a great job. Well done to all of the nominees: Xavior, Laura, Tia, Dylan, Louella, Isaac G, Jacob, Reuben, Anthony, Xavier M, Liam F, Callan, Georgia, Tom S, Callum, Abby, Oliver, Sophie, Scarlett, Natalie, Xavier C, Isabella and Amabel.

After the speeches the school community voted and we congratulate the students who were elected:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 1st March
Parent Teacher interviews from 1.30pm

Tuesday 7th March
Pupil Free Day

Wednesday 15th March
School Council AGM 6.30pm

Friday 31st March
Last day term 1, 2.30pm dismissal
SCHOOL CAPTAINS – Isaac G and Tia
VICE SCHOOL CAPTAINS – Jacob and Laura

FRANKLIN HOUSE CAPTAINS – Xavier M & Georgia
FRANKLIN VICE CAPTAINS – Tom S & Callan H

TARRENGOWER HOUSE CAPTAINS – Scarlett & Oliver
TARRENGOWER VICE CAPTAINS – Sophie & Natalie

NUGGETY HOUSE CAPTAINS – Abby & Anthony

ALEXANDER HOUSE CAPTAINS – Amabel & Xavier C
ALEXANDER VICE CAPTAINS – Isabella & Reuben

Last week was our first School Council meeting for the year. Our next school council meeting is our School Council AGM which will be held on March 15th.

Our School Council consists of 9 members- 6 parent and 3 Department of Education and Training (DET) representatives.

This year we have 3 parent vacancies on school council – nominations are now open and close on February 27th 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.
- 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 8.15pm

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

**MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 6.00pm – 7.30pm, Senior Unit (Gr 3-6)**

**WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 6.00pm -7.00pm, Junior Unit (Gr P-2)**

Warm regards

Jodie

**What’s happening in the classroom?**

**Friday Fundraiser:** Friday Fundraiser will not commence until after the Water Awareness program. The date of commencement will be advertised in the newsletter.
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.

School community

Visitors register: A reminder to all parents that they must sign in and out of the school, using the visitors register, when helping out in the classrooms e.g. for reading. This is for emergency management purposes.

Access to classrooms during school hours: A reminder to parents that if you need to drop something to your child during school hours or pick them up early you need to go to the office for assistance to avoid disrupting classes.

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 (the roster went home last week) we still have some gaps in the term 2 roster so if you can help out please return the pink form, coming home tonight, to the office by Friday 24th February or let Debra know. The more volunteers we have the lighter the load for everyone!

Volunteers for this week: Shelley Woods and Anita Mason
Volunteers for next week: Shelley Carmichael and Nicole Funston

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.

Office Information

Student enrolment details: Thank you to all families who have returned their Student Enrolment Details forms. These forms are now OVERDUE so if you still have yours at home please check the details on the form, make any necessary changes and return them to the office IMMEDIATELY so that our student files can be updated prior to the student census. All forms must be signed and returned even if there are no alterations to be made.

Camps, Sport and Excursions fund: 2017 CSEF applications are now overdue. Eligible families receive $125 per child to help cover the cost of camps, sporting activities and excursions so don’t miss out….submit your form TOMORROW if you are eligible so that you don’t miss out on the first payment round in early March.

Permission notes and payments to be returned:
- Footsteps Dance permission slip and payment is due back by Monday 27th February

Financial statements: Financial statements were sent home recently 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.

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.

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.

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 presented your card in previous years there is no need to present it again as we still have a copy on file.
Student achievements

One night at the dinner table, Isabella and her family were talking about how long her hair was and the topic of Alopecia came up. This conversation led to the family talking about Izzy donating her hair so that wigs could be made for kids who suffer from cancer.

So Izzy signed up for “Hair with a Heart” which is run by Variety the Children’s Charity.

As well as donating her hair Izzy’s goal was to raise $500 however her final total was $614.25. She raised her money by word of mouth with people donating to a website she set up with the organisation.

Izzy had a 40cm ponytail of hair cut off last Wednesday which will be used in the construction of wigs. An amazing and special achievement. Well done Izzy!

A reminder that if you have any news about student achievements outside of school hours we would love to hear about it. Please email details, photos etc. to maldon.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

Fundraising news

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

Extra curricular catch up

---

DTM
0407 502 438
drewthorpemusic@gmail.com

INSTRUMENT LESSONS

♫ 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
drewthorpemusic@gmail.com
Facebook: Drew Thorpe Music—DTM
www.dtmaustralia.com.au
Youth Hub for 12-18's
Maldon & Surrounds
Hanging out Together Workshops Activities

Excursions
Wednesdays 1x p fortnight 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Term 1 2017

8th Feb Theatre Sports
22nd Feb Intro Electronic Sound
8th Mar Mini Film Making
22nd Mar Henna Body Painting & Games Night

Info
Maldon Neighbourhood Centre
1 Church Street
Maldon, 3463
Amy 5413 2893
Esther
0429 900698

The Young West Youth Hub is supported by the Victorian Government