Principal’s Chat

It is so hard to believe that we have come to the end of another school year. This year has certainly been a busy, eventful and rewarding one. We have accomplished many things and created many opportunities for all students. I enjoy seeing their smiling, happy faces each day. Being happy and enjoying coming to school is really important in terms of being ready to learn.

I would like to say thank you to our school councillors, Freya, Vanessa, Nicole, Helen C, Marton, Emily, Amy, Megan, Bernadette, Liz and Helen P, for the time and effort that they have put in to ensuring that our school is a great place to learn and also that it is inclusive of our whole school community. Our school council was restructured this year to ensure that we achieved and accomplished as much as possible. I look forward to working with you again in 2016.

A special thank you to Anita M, who has put a lot of hard work and effort in behind the scenes, coordinating people and events. She was also the instigator of our school face book page which has been a huge success.

The sports committee and wellbeing committee have also been busy this year and should be congratulated on the time and effort they have put into creating opportunities for all students.

Thank you to Nicole and Lauren who spent the morning cleaning the back shed and to Anita who has been busy in the kitchen cleaning.

We are very lucky to have a supportive group of parents who are willing to help out throughout the year – we really value and appreciate your support.

I am very happy to notify the school community that as of Monday 1st February, 2016, a before and after school care program will commence at Maldon Primary school.

Before School 6.45am – 8.40am (children will receive breakfast)

After School 3.15pm – 6.00pm (children will receive a snack)

It is important to note that if you need to drop your child at school prior to 8.40am they will need to be enrolled in the before school program as there will be no school staff supervision before 8.40am.

Today a note is being sent to every family with some information from the YMCA about the before and after school care program. Families who have expressed an interest in the program have also been sent an enrolment form. If you would like to enrol your child in the program, but did not receive an enrolment form, the form can be found on our website or obtained from the school office. Please return your enrolment form as soon as possible to secure a place. Feel free to contact the YMCA if you need any further information.

THIS WEEK AT M.P.S.

Tuesday 15th December
• Pop up Art Gallery in Indonesian room from 8.30am
• Grade 6 graduation dinner 6pm

Wednesday 16th December
• Pop up Art Gallery in Indonesian room
• Class parties – P1B, 1/2J and 4D

Thursday 17th December
• Pop up Art Gallery in Indonesian room until 4pm
• Class parties – 2/3H and 5/6B

Friday 18th December
• No Fresh Fruit Friday or Friday Fundraiser
• Assembly-1pm. Grade 6 graduation movies will be shown then a guard of honour will be formed as they leave the school for the last time
• End of year dismissal at 1.30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 21st January
Stationery pack pick up/fee payment day 10.30am-3pm

Thursday 28th January
First day term 1, 2016

11 sleeps to Christmas!
At the end of this week we say farewell to our seven Grade 6 students - Holly, Emily, Genevieve, Dakota, Darcy, Phoenix and Chayton. I have enjoyed getting to know each of them and watching them grow. I wish them all the very best as they enter the next part of their journey at secondary school. I hope that they have lots of great experiences and many opportunities.

Here are some final words from our Grade 6 students:

Phoenix – Thanks to Maldon Primary for the memories and all the friends that I have made. I am looking forward to high school because I will do more things like woodwork and more classes.

Darcy – Farewell to Maldon Primary school and thank you for the sporting opportunities that I have had so that I can pursue my athletics into the future. I am looking forward to more opportunities and independence at secondary school.

Chayton – I would like to say thank to Maldon Primary school for letting me have the opportunity to go to the footy carnival and I will miss my friends who are in grade 5. I am looking forward to having more classes and different teachers at secondary school.

Dakota – Goodbye Maldon Primary school. Thanks to all the teachers that I have had over the years. I am going to miss my friends and I am looking forward to making new friends.

Emily – Thank you to Maldon Primary school for giving me the opportunities it has. I am going to miss my friends and I am looking forward to meeting different people at secondary school.

Genevieve – Goodbye Maldon Primary school. Thank you for all the opportunities that you have given me and I will miss all my friends. I am looking forward to having lots of new experiences at secondary school.

Holly – I have enjoyed being with my friends through school and always having fun in class. I am looking forward to high school and the new classes and opportunities.

Again, I would like to thank you all for another great school year. Being part of the Maldon school community and enjoying coming to work each day is something that I really value. I am looking forward to the break to relax and reenergise ready for 2016. I hope you all have a happy, safe and relaxing Christmas and break. See you all in 2016.

Warm regards

Jodie
What’s happening this week?

- Kellie will be absent on Tuesday and will be replaced by Alisa

What’s happening in the classroom?

Library reminder:

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**We still have lots of library books which have not been returned. It would be appreciated if you could have a search at home to locate them and return them to**

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**Pop Up Art gallery:** Alisa has been working hard to set up a display of student art work in the Indonesian room for parents to come and have a look at. The Pop Up Art gallery will be open from 8.30am Tuesday morning until 4.00pm Thursday afternoon for parents, family and friends to view the wonderful, creative and inspiring art work of our students. Pop in and have a look at any time between 8.30am and 4.00pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

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**Positive behaviour awards:**

Back row L to R: **Finley, Ryan, Scarlett and Maysie**
Front row L to R: **Hugh, Liam C, Matilda and Stella**

**AND**

All of the students in Gr 5/6B

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**Netbooks grades 4,5 and 6:** All students in Grades 4 to 6 must **return their netbooks and charges** to the office by Wednesday morning so that they can be reconfigured and ready for the start of the 2016 school year.

**Young leaders:**

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**Urgently required**

Young Leaders need someone to either care for the chooks at school over the entire holiday break OR take them home to care for them and bring them back at the start of 2016. If you are able to do this please let the office know a.s.a.p.
**Fresh Fruit Friday:** A reminder to all families that Fresh Fruit Friday has now finished for 2015. A big thank you to Maldon IGA for their generosity in donating the fruit for FFF throughout 2015.

Staff and students really appreciate their support each week!

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**Office Info**

**2016 Parent Payments:** All families should have received a form for each student outlining the costs of the stationery and fees for 2016. If you have not received your form/forms please contact the office. Stationery pick up and fee payment day is on January 21st from 10.30am to 3pm. Payment can be made by cash, cheque or eftpos on the day or BPAY can be used before the day.

**Centrapay:** Families in receipt of Centrelink payments have the option of paying for stationery, fees, uniforms, camps etc. via regular deductions from their fortnightly payment. If you are a Centrelink payment recipient and you would like to start making regular payments to the school to cover school costs, please complete the Centrapay form sent home last week. Part A, D and G must all be completed, then the form should be returned to the office and Debra will send it off to Centrelink. Please see Debra if you require assistance to complete the form.

**Bus travel for 2016:** In preparation for the start of 2016 ALL bus travellers must complete a new PTV application for permission to travel form. The form was sent home last week and needs to be returned to the office immediately.

**Absence notes:** Any families with outstanding absence notes are asked to send them to the office immediately so that attendance records for 2015 can be finalised prior to the end of the year.

**Financial statements:** Any families with outstanding payments for 2015 camps, excursions, fees and uniforms are asked to finalise their payments immediately. Please contact the office if this is not possible and an alternative payment arrangement can be discussed.

**Water awareness permission forms and payment:** Permission forms for the 2016 Water awareness program have been sent home. Please contact the office or print one off the website if you did not receive one.

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**School Community**

**Missing and desperately needed:**
- A yellow key tag labelled Padlock key. Last seen sitting on a chair before the circus performance.
- A red key tag labelled BBQ keys. Last seen at Market Day.

A reward is offered for the safe return of one or both of these keys!!!

**Help needed:**
- **Bernadette is in need of some help to wash the soft toys and dress ups in her room as part of the end of year clean up. Please let Bernadette know if you are able to assist with this job.**
- **The new front garden requires watering weekly over the school holidays. There is a watering system installed, we just need a family to turn it on and off. Please let Debra know if you are able to do this.**

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**Fundraising/Events survey:** Don’t forget to return your fundraising/events survey to the office by this Wednesday 16th December.
Cybersafety event: A Facebook Cybersafety event is being held in Castlemaine on Monday 14th December. The Facebook presentation is being held at the Ray Bradfield rooms with two sessions: 10am - 12noon and 7.00pm - 9.00pm

The sessions will be run by founder and Director of CyberActive Services, Janita Docherty, who is a sought after Facebook specialist who has been travelling consistently overseas and within Australia, to deliver Facebook presentations and to gain further research on ongoing trends in the digital space.

Don't miss out on this specialist presentation with instruction by Australia's leading Facebook expert. Tickets available at [Eventbrite](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/facebook-event-castlemaine-tickets-19770358675)

For further information or to book for an individual 'Facebook Audit' Session - please contact Janita: info@cyberactiveservices.com


Sport news

Following last Friday’s sports meeting the committee felt it important to make two acknowledgments to the school community.

The first is to Darcy who came to Maldon at the beginning of grade 4. When Darcy was in grade 4, the Sports committee ran their **first ever** Athletics Day. With little experience we offered the children a very limited selection of events which could qualify them for the Division Athletics in Bendigo. Darcy ran an amazing 100m sprint and qualified for the Division and then Regional finals. She blew our newly formed sports committee away when she then qualified for the “School Sports Victoria” State final. We were so proud of her achievement and it emphasised to the Sports committee the importance of creating opportunities for our local children. Unfortunately in her grade 4 year, Darcy injured her knee the week before the state finals, and had to withdraw through injury.

The Sports committee has changed the athletics events offered to children since it’s inception in 2013. The 100m event has remained and this year, in Darcy’s final year with us, she again qualified for the SSV State finals in Albert Park, Melbourne. We would like to congratulate Darcy for her amazing achievement in running 5th in her race. She made us all proud and has encouraged the Sports committee to continue in their endeavours to bring sporting opportunities within the gates of our local school. Thank you Darcy for the inspiration you have given to us and best wishes from everyone at Maldon (especially the Sports committee) with your future sporting endeavours. We think you’re amazing!

On a separate note, at last week’s sports meeting, Jodie announced that we have been successful in an application for funding from the “Australian Government’s Sporting Schools” program. Schools can apply for funding assistance through the fund and Jodie submitted an application for SWIMMING in term 1 and NETBALL in term 2. The sponsorship will allow us to subsidise the cost of the swimming program for families in term 1. We have also been successful in achieving funding for Netball in term 2 and the sport meetings early next year will be directed towards working out the most appropriate allocation of these funds. These funds represent $4,400 worth of educational support for teaching water awareness and netball skills to our children. Well done and thank you to all those involved! Next year is bound to be a year of sporting opportunities for Maldon children.

Extra curricular catch up

![DTM Music Lessons](image-url)
**Christmas lights in Maldon**

Don't forget to have a look around Maldon at the wonderful array of Christmas lights on display.

**Holiday Art Workshops**

Children 7 – 12 Years, Castlemaine Art Gallery
With artist and teacher Margot Feast

**Gorgeous Gifts**

Make a stained glass lantern, a silver embossed treasure box and a print to frame
10am - 12.00pm, and 1.00 - 3pm
Monday 21 December 2015

Start this giant Christmas workshop creating a colourful glass lantern to light up your Christmas table. Then using aluminium embossing foil draw a unique image to decorate the lid of your treasure box. Finish the workshop creating an original block print to frame and wrap.

**OVER THE MOON YOGA & DANCE EDUCATION**

- **Movement** - All of the movement styles at OTM encourage students to:
  - Practice a focused awareness in classes, a skill they can take into their activities outside of the studio.
  - Develop confidence and joy in dancing.
  - Experience a wide cultural awareness of music and the visual arts.
  - Develop respect for each other and the teacher.
  - Develop mentoring roles between teacher and assistant, and younger dancers.

- **Performance** - Sharing the beauty of dance is an integral part of the OTM curriculum. It is enriching for the students and a gift to the wider community.

- **Cultural Life** - Since 1990 OTM has hosted and participated in a number of cultural events at the studio and in the town.

- **Studio Space** - There are two beautiful studios. One carpeted studio for yoga and creative dance. One studio with a sprung wooden floor and ballet barre’s for classical and contemporary dance.

Now taking enrolments for all ages... see attached timetable. Enquiries: overthemoon@bigpond.com

**SHARON SAUNDERS DANCERS**

Celebrating 25 years of dance in 2016

- **Principal** - Edna Rethwisch
- **Address** - 9 Templeton Street, Castlemaine, VIC 3450
- **Phone** - (03) 5470 5961
- **Website** - www.sharonsaundersdancers.com

**SSD KIDZ**

- **Shining through Dance!**
- **Programs**
  - Enchanted Kidz (2-3 yrs)
  - Ballet Kidz (3-5 yrs)
  - Dance Kidz (4-5 yrs)
  - ATOO (Pre Level Jazz Tap Ballet)

- **Location**
  - Castlemaine Lawn Tennis Club
  - Wheel Street, Castlemaine

- **Time**
  - 9AM - 4PM

- **Fee**
  - $25 per day

- **Details**
  - Please bring packed lunch and water bottle
  - Simply register online today!

- **Contact**
  - 0418 399 639
  - www.sharonsaundersdancers.com

**Tennis Clinic Victoria**

- **Location**
  - Castlemaine Lawn Tennis Club
  - Wheel Street, Castlemaine

- **Time**
  - 9AM - 4PM

- **Entry Fee**
  - $25 per day

- **Details**
  - Tennis coaching available for all standards 8 days a week