Principal’s chat

This year we have introduced a Before and After School Care program that is run by the Bendigo Regional YMCA. Last year families indicated their intentions to use the program and it is great that some families are utilising it.

To date our numbers have been very low – on some days we have had no students and on most days three or four. We did have one afternoon where we had ten children in the program. I am meeting with the YMCA this week for some feedback on the program and how it is going so far. Regardless of how many children turn up the YMCA still pays two staff members each day.

Our aim is to have at least 12 children per day, so if you are planning to use the program and haven’t done so as yet I strongly encourage you to get your enrolment form in and book your child in so that we can get a good idea of numbers. If the program is not supported then the YMCA will no longer be able to fund it and it will not be offered at our school.

The swimming carnival was a great way to end a very beneficial and productive two week swim and survive program. All students participated in events throughout the day including freestyle, backstroke, breast stroke and other fun house events and relays.

All children who entered the pool for events earned points for their house, so well done everyone. The winning house team on the day was ALEXANDER (GREEN).

Many thanks to the sport committee for their organisation and support on the day and to the many other parents who helped on the day. The day was a great success.

Here are some thoughts from the students:

Liam A – I figured out that I could swim the length of the whole pool doing freestyle. The carnival was fun because we had swimming races.

Aliannah – I learnt that when doing breast stroke that if you don’t do it properly you could get eliminated from the race. I like swimming freestyle.

Aleara – We got to play really fun games where we all worked as a team. Two of the games were the bucket relay and the wet wardrobe. I liked...
doing the relays the best.

Tayah – I enjoyed the carnival because it was a great opportunity to show everyone how I could swim. I enjoyed moving up to the next group because it was challenging.

Ryan – I learnt how to do breast stroke. At the carnival I liked cheering and watching my friends.

Darius – At the carnival I swam my laps and cheered on my team mates. I tried hard to do my best and finish the races.

We have 5 vacancies on school council this year – please remember that any parent is eligible to nominate for school council and it is a great way for you to be involved in our school. Nominations are now open and will close this Wednesday 24th February at 4:00pm. If you have any questions then please feel free to give me a call or come in for a chat.

At the end of last year we were successful in receiving funding from the Sporting Schools Initiative. Sporting Schools is a $100 million Australian Government initiative to get children committed to a lifelong love of sport. We received funds to support our swim and survive program. This means that every child who paid and participated in the swim program will receive a $21.00 refund onto their account to be used for other school activities and events. We also received funding for term two to focus on netball skills from grade P-6. This will enable us to purchase some equipment and run coaching sessions for all students.

Due to the fundraising efforts of last year we have just purchased $3000 worth of new take home reader books. To ensure their longevity we have had a group of parents who have been busy contacting them. A huge thank you to the parents who have helped out with this – there were over 500 books to cover!! You will soon see these new readers coming home with your child at night.

Just a reminder that parent teacher interviews are on tomorrow and Wednesday. It is a great opportunity for you to chat with your child’s teacher and share information about your child and their learning.

Next Monday all our grade 5 and 6 students will take part in Peer Mediation training. This will involve them learning all the skills they need to be a great peer mediator. We are working with an organisation called Stride who will be delivering the program and working with students.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening in the classroom?

Whole school behaviour this week: Setting personal and academic goals

Here are a few ideas:

Tarkyn– Set yourself a personal goal in your writing. You could set a personal goal in cricket.

Arlen– An academic goal could be deciding how many words you can get down on paper.

Archie– In Blitzmasters try to get the most answers down.

Alice -Set a goal for what level you want to be on in reading.
Grad 1 and 2 virtual dinosaur incursion: Today our grade 1 and 2 students experienced an excursion to the Melbourne Museum in a very different way. They were linked with the Museum tour guide via camera and video and explored the dinosaur exhibition. They asked questions and were shown some giant herbivore and carnivore teeth. It was very engaging.

Here are some comments from the students:

Stella R – We saw a moving dinosaur but it wasn't real. It was in a little forest and it was camouflaged. It blends in and if animals eat that type of dinosaur then it would just be camouflaged.

Hugh – We saw T-Rex's cousin at the Museum. They were filming it with a camera. It had sharp teeth and they use them to tear meat.

Abi – The man showed us long necked dinosaurs and really small ones. He said that some were almost the same size as a chicken. It was cool because we were learning about it.

Izaak M – The T-Rex was a carnivore. It's jaw was about a metre long. The man showed us a dinosaur jaw bone and we saw big teeth.

Jack S – He showed us lots of fossils and they were not just from dinosaurs. He showed us some of the smallest dinosaurs. The man walked around with a camera instead of us going there.

Maddy - He showed us some of the fossils and it was a fossil leaf. I have never been to the Museum before and I didn't know that dinosaurs had that many bones.

Wanted: Meat trays or other suitable containers/lids for use as painting trays in Art. Please leave donations at the office.

What's happening this week?

• Jodie will be attending a Principal’s forum all day on Monday 29th February.

Office info

Student enrolment details: The following families have outstanding student enrolment details forms:

Robertson, Wings, Gardner-Trott, Healy, Bennetts, Czehmester, Sparrow, Stevens, Gautam, Glen, Green and Phillips.

Due to the fact that circumstances frequently change it is an education department requirement that families check and update details annually prior to the census at the end of February. Could all families listed above please check the details on the form/s sent home two weeks ago, 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. Please contact Debra at the office if you need a new copy of the form for your child/children.

Permission notes to be returned:

• Grade 3/4 camp deposit is due on Monday, 29th February
• Ulumbarra theatre permission slip and payment (all grades) is due on Thursday, 10th March
**Credit to all families:** The school has been successful in obtaining funds to subsidise the school swimming program for 2016. Consequently all families have received a credit of $21 per child on the cost of the swimming program. If you have outstanding charges this credit has been applied to them otherwise the credit can be applied to the Ulumbarra excursion or another future excursion/activity.

**Newsletter and permission forms:** A reminder to all families that our weekly newsletter and all excursion permission slips can be found on the school website www.maldonps.vic.edu.au.

**Late arrivals:** All students who arrive late to school **MUST** sign in at the office before going to class to ensure that rolls can be updated and students are not recorded as absent for the entire day.

**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.

**Camps, Sport and Excursions fund:** 2016 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.

**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.

**Payment for camps and excursions:** Are you tired of trying to find the right cash for excursions? Did you know that you don’t have to? Some families have paid a bulk amount e.g. $100 onto their account which the office then allocates to excursion costs as they arise. These families then only need to fill in and return their permission forms as soon as they receive them - how easy is that? If you would like to place a bulk amount on your account you can do so with cash, cheque or by using BPay. BPay details for your family are available from the office. As an alternative to a bulk payment you could setup a regular BPay, e.g. $20 per fortnight, to build up funds in your account to cover future expenses.

Last week a document was sent home outlining the proposed activities and costs scheduled for the 2016 school year. **Whilst costs are only approximate** it gives families an idea of a bulk amount they could pay onto their account to cover 2016 excursions and activities. **The figures given below are for approximate costs for the remainder of this year including the Ulumbarra excursion.**

- Prep: $116
- Grade 1: $171 which includes the camp experience day
- Grade 2: $226 which includes the camp
- Grade 3: $111 for excursions, $279 for camp
- Grade 4: $111 for excursions, $279 for camp
- Grade 5: $136 for excursions, $320 for camp
- Grade 6: $151 for excursions, $320 for camp

**School community**

**Class contacts for 2016:** We still have only three parents who have volunteered to act as class contacts for 2016. To date, no-one has volunteered for the role in Brett’s class or Bernadette’s class. 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:** **Use it or lose it!** The Bendigo Regional YMCA is now offering before and after school care at Maldon Primary school for a trial period to see if it is viable long term. **If you indicated last year that you required before or after school care PLEASE use it to ensure that the program continues.** The program operates 6.45am – 8.45am and 3.15pm – 6.15pm everyday. 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 Shelley Carmichael

No Fresh Fruit Friday next week as it is a Pupil Free day

Fundraising news

The school yard was full of cars on the weekend as people flocked to the Antiques and Collectables Fair at the football oval. $204 was raised in parking donations...a good return for very little effort!

Extra curricular catch up

Water awareness program:

Water awareness encouragement awards were awarded to a male and a female from each grade who gave 100% effort over the two weeks of the program. Recipients were chosen by the swimming instructors. Winners were:

Back row L to R: Lochlan, Tayah, Liam, Bodie

Middle row L to R: Arlen, Jayden, Eva, Lillian, Rex, Matilda, Tarkyn

Front row L to R: Harrison, Amabel, Stella

Swimming carnival:
Community

SIGN UP FOR SOCCER

Join the world game right here in Maryborough!

Maryborough City Soccer Club 2016 Registration Dates
Thursday, March 3 - 3:30pm to 5:00pm
Thursday, March 10 - 3:30pm to 5:00pm
Thursday, March 17 - 9:00am to 11:30am

Maryborough City Soccer Club offers all the opportunity to play the World Game in a safe and family-friendly environment.

We invite YOU to join us for the 2016 season.

Come on down to our registration days where you can sign up, enjoy a free BBQ, meet your coaches and have a fun kick around with your new teammates. Bring a friend with you and join up together!

Mixed Teams, Boys and Girls Welcome
No Previous Experience Required
FFA Accredited Coaches
U7s, U9s, U12s, U16s and Open Age Groups
Friendly and Welcoming Club Environment
Maryborough City Soccer Club
Maryborough Hockey Fields, Park Road
Maryborough, 3465
maryboroughcitysoccerclub.weebly.com
maryboroughsoccer@gmail.com

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BECOME AN AUSTSWIM TEACHER OF SWIMMING AND WATER SAFETY™

AUSTSWIM Teachers are in high demand. Develop essential knowledge, skill and understanding to teach vital swimming and water safety education.

COURSE INFO

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VENUE: Peter Kiret Leisure Centre - Napier Street Eaglehawk, Bendigo VIC

For more information please contact:

PHONE: 1300 855 695
EMAIL: info@austswim.com.au

ENROL TODAY AT AUSTSWIM.COM.AU
Have your say

After 17 years of supporting local initiatives totaling more than $2.1 million, the Maldon & District Community Bank is reinvigorating our approach to community investment. We want our school communities to get involved and tell us where the bank’s future funds should be invested.

In the past you could fill in a grant application and funds would be distributed to support local initiatives based on the applications. Now, instead of waiting for applications, they’re asking everyone in the community what their big idea is.

To help get you started, imagine our communities in 10 years. What can we do today to make them the sorts of communities we’ll love living in? Think broadly. Think about surrounding areas. Are there issues common to all? You don’t need to be a customer to have your say as to where you think future community funds could be invested, just a member of the community.

If you or your family have an idea that you would like to share, you can submit it online at www.oursay.org/mdcb/thebigone or by attending a community engagement forum. The community engagement forums are being held across the region between Monday 29 February and Friday 4 March.

Maldon’s community engagement forums are open to the public and will be held on Monday evening, 29 February at 6.30-8.30 pm and on Tuesday 1 March 9.30-11.30 am at the Maldon Community Centre, Francis Street.

The top five issues to be addressed will be nominated by members of the community at The Big One: Your Community, Your Say conference on Wednesday 27 April 2016.

We’d also love if you could fill out a survey when you go online at www.thebigoneMDCB.com

or pick a survey up at the branch to tell us what you think about the Maldon Community Bank.