Principal’s chat

Last Tuesday Danica, Alisa and Brett hosted a netbook and cyber safety information night for parents and students. The session was very informative and parents and students took away lots of information. It focused on the importance of parents supervising their children when online and some ways to do that. It also explored how to be safe and protected when online.

Here is a snapshot of some of the information shared:

How do we keep kids safe online?

Whether at school, children are protected by sophisticated firewalls and web filters. When students leave the school network and log on to their home network this features are no longer available. There are some simple steps you can take to help protect your children at home.

For instance you can:
1. activate restricted mode on youtube.
2. Google Chrome offers a range of parental controls to make internet browsing safer and age appropriate.

REMEMBER: there is NO internet filter that replaces parental supervision online!

The following website was shared and has a range of useful information for parents:


Students also completed an online cyber smart quiz – try it at home with your family and see how cyber safe you are. It is a great way to generate discussion with your children around safety online.


Danica has prepared some step by step instructions to help you with safety when your children are on you tube or using such search engines as google. They can be found later in the newsletter under School community.

With a focus on POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR LEARNING - empowering students, building school pride, setting expectations and promoting inclusion - this term our grade 5/6 students will be taking part in two sessions of student leadership training. Below is a brief description of each training session. After each session teachers will follow up in the
• Peer Mediation training (Monday 29th Feb) – to ensure that our grade 5/6 students are aware of what it means to be a peer mediator and to develop their skills. Topics covered will include connecting with students, using empathy in conflict resolution and using the steps of mediation.

• Leadership training (Tuesday 8th March) – will focus on developing a better understanding of leadership. They will also cover topics including leadership and team work, developing a leadership culture, leadership and body language, leaders need to listen, being an assertive leader and public speaking.

After speaking to our grade 5 and 6 students, and getting feedback from them, this year all of our grade 5 and 6 students will have the opportunity to run and lead our assemblies. Along the way we are developing our formal talk and public speaking skills, developing confidence when speaking in front of an audience and learning how to appropriately address an audience. Some students (and adults) find formal talk and public speaking very scary and lack the confidence to do so. Students will be supported in their assembly running to ensure that they are well prepared and are encouraged to show resilience by having a go.

Today I am attending the Regional Principals Forum in Bendigo. This meeting is held once a term and principals from all over the region meet and are addressed by our Regional Director and staff.

Two weeks ago we practiced our Emergency Management Plan and this involved an evacuation from the school building. Staff spoke with students about this procedure and we all evacuated the school building safely. This week we will be practicing a ‘Shelter in Place’ and this involves moving all students, staff and visitors to the multipurpose room. This procedure will be activated when an incident occurs outside the school building and emergency services or the principal determines it the safest course of action to keep everyone safe. Throughout the year we will practice a range of emergency drills to ensure that we are prepared.

Just a reminder that prep students will now be attending school every day—there are no more allocated rest days. If you find that your child is not managing or still needs an afternoon at home now and then please discuss this with Bernadette.

This Friday, 4th March, is a pupil free day – no students are required at school. All schools are allocated four pupil free days for the year. Pupil Free days allow staff at school to undertake professional learning and development.

On Friday we will be joined by Lyn Watts to continue our school improvement journey and focus on improving student outcomes. We will also be working with an additional consultant, who specialises in mathematics. We look forward to continuing to develop our skills and build our capacity.

As mentioned in the newsletter last week it is important that parents utilise the before and after school care to ensure that it continues. It is
also vital that parents book students in with the YMCA as sessions will not run/ be staffed if they have no bookings. Most families are eligible for the Child Care Rebate when using before/after school care as it is not means tested so make sure you apply. More information on this is printed in School community below.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening in the classroom?

Whole school behaviour this week: Caring for others-showing empathy

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

Young leaders: No Friday fundraiser this week as it is a pupil free day.

What’s happening this week?

- Kathryn will be taking Art on Thursday this week instead of Tuesday.
- Indonesian will be on Tuesday this week instead of Thursday.
- Jodie will be out of the school on Tuesday afternoon.

Office info

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

Czehmester, 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 which were resent home last week, 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 TODAY. At this stage only 18 of the 25 students have returned their form and camp deposit. We need ALL families to return their form indicating their intentions so that we can make a decision on whether the camp is financially viable.
- Ulumbarra theatre permission slip and payment (all grades) is due on Thursday, 10th March.
- Grade 3 to 6 Cross country permission slip and payment is due on Friday, 11th March.

A reminder that all current permission slips are available on the school website www.maldonps.vic.edu.au if you didn’t receive or have lost your hard copy.

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 excursion 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.

Earlier this term 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

Bookclub: Bookclub issue 2 accompanies the newsletter today. Orders and payment can be made on line by going to scholastic.com.au/LOOP or can be submitted at the office. Orders are due at the office by Wednesday 9th March, 2016 if you choose to order in this way.

School community

Class contacts for 2016: We now only require a class contact for Brett's class. If you are interested in being a class contact for Brett's class please let the office or Brett 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. Below is some information on the child care benefit and child care rebate which many families are eligible for.

Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate

The Australian Government provides families with two types of financial assistance to help cover the costs of approved child care – the Child Care Benefit and the Child Care Rebate. It is important to remember that while Child Care Benefit is based on family income, the Child Care Rebate is not income tested.

Child Care Benefit

The Child Care Benefit is income tested and is usually paid directly to approved Child Care Services to reduce the fees that eligible families pay.

You can apply for the Child Care Benefit online or in person through Centrelink. To apply online, visit the Department of Human Services website.

Eligibility for the Child Care Benefit

Your child must be attending approved child care or registered child care
You or your partner must meet the residency and child’s immunisation requirements*

You must be the person responsible for paying the child care fees

*On 12 April 2015, the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, jointly announced that the Australian Government is reinforcing the importance of immunisation and protecting public health by strengthening the immunisation requirements for children. Under the No Jab No Pay legislation, from 1 January 2016, parents must ensure their children meet the immunisation requirements which now apply for all children up to the age of 19, in order to be eligible for Child Care Benefit, including for Registered Care. The changes means that a child must be fully immunised, or on a catch-up schedule or have a valid exemption in order to receive these payments.

Conscientious objection is no longer an exemption category, however it is important to note that children with a recognised medical exemption (verified by a General Practitioner) such as medical contraindication, natural immunity or participation in a recognised vaccine study will continue to be exempt from the requirements.

Child Care Rebate
An additional payment to the Child Care Benefit is the Child Care Rebate. The Rebate helps families cover the out-of-pocket costs of child care and it is not income tested. Even if your family income is too high for you to receive the Child Care Benefit, you may be eligible for the Child Care Rebate. It covers up to 50 per cent of out-of-pocket costs, up to $7,500 per child, per year.

You may choose to receive the Child Care Rebate paid fortnightly, either directly to your bank account, or through your child care service provider as a fee reduction. You still have the option of having your Child Care Rebate paid quarterly or annually as a lump sum directly to your bank account.

If you currently receive Child Care Rebate and would like to receive fortnightly payments for the next financial year, you will need to make this change with the Department of Human Services.

Out-of-pocket child care costs are calculated after deducting any Child Care Benefit payments that are received.

**Eligibility for the Child Care Rebate**

- You and your partner (if applicable) must have had work, training, study related commitments (or have an exemption) at some time during the week care is provided.
- You must be using approved child care.
- You or your partner must be an Australian citizen, a permanent resident living in Australia or be exempted from the Australian Government's residency requirements.
- Children under seven years of age must meet the Australian Government’s immunisation requirements or have an exemption*.
- You must be the one responsible for your child care costs. If your employer contributes to your child care through salary sacrificing or packaging, you should discuss with them who is responsible for the cost.

*On 12 April 2015, the Prime Minister, the Hon Tony Abbott MP and the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, jointly announced that the Australian Government is reinforcing the importance of immunisation and protecting public health by strengthening the immunisation requirements for children. Under the No Jab No Pay legislation, from 1 January 2016, parents must ensure their children meet the immunisation requirements which now apply for all children up to the age of 19, in order to be eligible for Child Care Benefit, including for Registered Care. The changes means that a child must be fully immunised, or on a catch-up schedule or have a valid exemption in order to receive these payments.

Conscientious objection is no longer an exemption category, however it is important to note that children with a recognised medical exemption (verified by a General Practitioner) such as medical contraindication, natural immunity or participation in a recognised vaccine study will continue to be exempt from the requirements.

**How to claim the Child Care Rebate?**

- You will need to apply for the Child Care Benefit first. There is no separate claim form for the Child Care Rebate. You can apply for the Child Care Benefit in person or online. For online applications visit the Department of Human Services
- You will automatically be assessed and paid if you are eligible when you apply for the Child Care Benefit (even if you are assessed at a zero rate for the Child Care Benefit due to your family’s income)
- If you are eligible to receive the Rebate, it will be paid once Centrelink has received child care attendance details from your child care service/s

Find out how much you could receive using the child care estimator on the Department of Human Services website.

**For more information**

If you have any questions about the Child Care Benefit or Child Care Rebate contact the Department of Human Services on 136 150.
Fresh Fruit Friday:
No Fresh Fruit Friday this week as Friday is a Pupil Free day.
Next week’s volunteers: Kate Tucker and Kate Mahoney

Cybersafety information:

TURNING ON RESTRICTED MODE ON YOUTUBE

To turn on the filter you need to sign in to YouTube on EACH browser (on school netbooks this is internet explorer and/or google chrome).

Step 1.

Go to www.youtube.com. In the top corner there is a blue box that says sign in. Click on this and sign in using your account. If you don’t have an account you can set one up using the create account button that appears.

Step 2.

Sign in using your email address. If you need to create an account you can do so by clicking on create account.

STEP 3.

Once you have signed in, the sign in button will be replace by a circle icon.

STEP 4.

Now scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the restricted mode button. It will then give you the option to turn on the filter and click save. To make sure these changes remain in place you need to sign out of your account by clicking on the blue circle icon as shown.
In google search type in “google chrome parental controls”. Click on the Getting started for families link.

From here you can set controls and filters to suit your family.
Student achievements

Congratulations to Himal who has been selected in the Under 12 Bendigo representative squad in soccer. 70 children tried out for the squad and Himal was one of only 15 students selected. Well done Himal!

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.

Extra curricular catch up

We only have four weeks left of Term 1 which means Easter is just around the corner! Our school will once again be entering into the Maldon Easter Parade on Monday March 28th. All students are invited to participate.

Our theme for this year is: ONE CLASSROOM, MANY CULTURES Maldon Primary school.....CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

We will also be displaying our school values: EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, RESILIENCE and RESPECT.

We will need a parent/s to coordinate the event and parents of participating students are expected to assist with costumes/float preparations. Children are asked to dress up as children from other countries/cultures.

If anyone is interested in coordinating the event please contact Anita on 0400 149 284 or via the school Facebook page or let Debra know in the office.

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.

Connecting With Kids Maldon

Emotional intelligence is the ability to identify your emotions, understand them and be in control of the way we express them.

• Do you often wonder why children do what they do?
• Would you like to learn how to help children manage feelings such as worry, frustration and anger?

Term 1, 2016

When: Monday 7th March 2016
Time: Arrival and registration 6.15pm
Session: 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Where: Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, Cnr Church and Edward St Maldon
Cost: Free
Facilitator: Ky Gregg, Family Education Services (Catholic Care South) Childcare: N/available

For bookings and enquiries contact Amy on 5475 2933
info@maldoner.org.au
Groups are subject to maximum and children numbers determined seven working days prior to the commencement date, registrations are required.

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
Saturday, March 19 - 9:30am 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 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!

Mined Trails, Boys and Girls Welcome
No Previous Experience Required
Fifa Accredited Coach
UTS, U14s, U13s, U15s and Open Age Groups
Friendly and Welcoming Club Environment
Maryborough City Soccer Club
Maryborough, 4650
maryboroughcitysoccerclubweekly.com
maryboroughcitysoccerclub@gmail.com