Principal’s chat

We are now into week 7 of term 1, very hard to believe!

Last week our grade 5/6 students participated in peer mediation training. As a follow up to the training the students felt that it was important that we educate our school community about the process and role of peer mediators. Some of our peer mediators will be presenting at assembly this week and also visiting classrooms to speak with students about their role.

Here is a brief overview of the program and some of the steps involved:

In addition to learning what being a peer mediator is and how to do it, the training focused on 6 major skills:

- Understanding body language
- Understanding feelings
- Active listening and reflecting
- Effective questioning
- Assertiveness
- Brainstorming

Each day there will be two students rostered on as peer mediators. They will work in pairs and wear easily recognisable vests. The peer mediators can assist in the yard with a range of low level issues including such things as game rules, helping students find someone to play with, determining who is it for games and solving minor disagreements.

When helping with an issue they follow the 6 steps of mediation:

Step 1. Agree to mediate
Step 2. Find out what the problem is
Step 3. Find out what each person wants
Step 4. Find possible solutions
Step 5. Choose the best idea
Step 6. Create an agreement

These 6 Steps will be followed each time there is a problem that they can assist with.
Two staff members are on yard duty each day and peer mediators must refer major issues such as injuries, swearing, bullying etc. immediately to a yard duty teacher. Peer mediators do not replace staff on yard duty.

Here are some thoughts from the grade 5/6 students on peer mediation:

Isaac – I think it is a much better routine and now we understand what we need to do. The way we do it now is also interacting with other kids and hopefully it will help them better understand what to do in different situations.

Claire – I think it is much better organised and we have had training and we actually know how to solve problems. As a peer mediator I can help others out in the yard and I have new skills to help me look after others so that they feel confident.

Theresa – I have learnt how to help others when they might have a problem and also what not to help with and what to help with. If there is any physical issue then I know to get a teacher straight away. I found the training really fun and I learnt about body language and now I know that when someone is not looking at you they are not really interested. It is important when someone is speaking to you that you listen and look at them.

Isabella – I have learnt that some things I can deal with and some things I can’t because it could interfere with my safety. When people are sitting on their own you could ask them if they want some help and sometimes people might want to be by themselves but is important to check if they are okay. As a peer mediator I learnt that you can brainstorm solutions to problems. I feel more confident as a peer mediator now.

All students have been very busy in Art preparing portraits to display at the Maldon market over the long weekend. Please lock it in your calendar and go along and see some great work on display.

Here is a snippet in regards to this:

The Maldon Market: Hand Made, Home Grown is one of many fun events held in our region on the Labour Day weekend. The bi-annual Maldon Portrait Prize opens the day before and the Maldon Market will be taking up the theme with a colourful display of portraits produced by Maldon Primary School students and the interactive ‘Portraits for Respect’ to raise awareness about family violence at the next market, Sunday 13 March 9 – 2pm.

“It’s wonderful to be able to work with our local school and create community connections between their learning and local events. I’m looking forward to seeing all the portraits of our local students” says MANet member, Evelyn Jackson.

We invite friends and families of students to come and enjoy their wonderful work on Sunday 13 March, and then pop down to the Community Centre to view the official Portrait Prize entries. Students’ mini-portraits will be displayed at the Rotunda in the centre of the Maldon Market.

Over the past few weeks a decision has been made to decrease the size of our school council. Our school council will now have 9 members – 3 DET and 6 parents. Many thanks to the parents who nominated for council. At our AGM on Wednesday we say farewell to the following outgoing members of council:

Freya – has been on council for many years and also held the role of school council president for the past two years. We thank her for her time and dedication.

Vanessa – has been on council for 4 years, has held the roles of president and vice president and has been active in the buildings and grounds sub group.

Emily – has been a member of council for 2 years and has brought a range of expertise to the education policy sub group.

Amy – has been on council for 3 years and has played an active role in the executive and finance sub group.

I thank each of them for their support and dedication whilst on school council. Each person on council brings a range of expertise and knowledge to the school and we value all of their input, ideas and thoughts. We thank them for playing an active role on council.

At our AGM we welcome our new councillors:

Anita (Mum to Xavier – Gr 4, Izaak – Gr 2 and Levi – Gr 1)
Louise (Mum is Isaac Gr 5 and Alannah Gr 3)
Tom (Dad to Stella Gr 1)
This Wednesday, Danica’s class will be visiting the residents at the Maldon hospital as part of our 
community connections. The students enjoy visiting our friends at the hospital and the residents are always 
keen to chat and interact with the students.

This Wednesday Callum, Abby, Tom S, Alice, Xavior N, Claire, Theresa, Laura, Nicholas, Grace and Aleara will be 
travelling to Bendigo to compete in the Division Swimming Carnival. We wish each of them the best of luck.

This year, as in past years, we would like to take part in the Maldon Easter Parade. The parade is on Easter 
Monday, Monday 28th March, from 10am – 12pm. Students meet at the front of the school at 10:00am for judging 
and then the parade begins, with students walking around the main street of Maldon. It is a lot of fun and a great 
way to showcase what a fantastic school we have. With the up of course comes the down and we need 
volunteers to help out with a number of things to do with the parade including someone to act as a co-ordinator, 
someone to loan a ute or trailer to decorate and people to decorate the float. A note has been sent home today 
with more details regarding the easter parade so please return it by Wednesday of this week if you are able to help 
out and/or your children are able to take part.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening over the next two weeks?

- Danica and Brett will be attending a professional development day on Friday 18th March.

Office info

Permission notes to be returned:

- Ulumbarra theatre permission slip and payment (all grades) is due this Thursday, 10th March.
- Grade 3 to 6 Cross country permission slip and payment is due this Friday, 11th March.
- Grade 3/4 camp payment number two is due on Monday 14th March, 2016.

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.

Bookclub:

Don’t forget! Book Club orders are due:
Wed 9th March

Buy a book from SCHOLASTIC
Book Club to help build our classroom resources

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.
What’s happening in the classroom?

**Whole school behaviour this week:** Persevering when faced with challenges

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

**What reading looks like in 5/6B:**

Young leaders:

**Young Leaders Friday FUNdraiser**

Please leave orders with your classroom teacher.

Available each Friday are: **Homemade Sausage rolls $2.50, Juice Box $1.50, Popcorn $1.00**

**P/1 B caring for the chooks:** This year P/1 B have taken on the role of caring for the school chooks. A big thank you to Cheyenne and her mum Genna for caring for them on weekends during the hot weather.
School community

Fresh Fruit Friday:

This week’s volunteers: Kate Tucker and Kate Mahoney

Next week’s volunteers: Bec Hamilton and Nicole Funston

THANK YOU from one parent to another:

We are very lucky as a school community to have a huge variety of people influencing our kids - from all walks of life, making different choices on a day-to-day basis.

I’ve made a choice to be a paid working parent. I want to say a big THANK-YOU to all of you who have made the choice to be stay-at-home parents, contributing your time to our school, improving the educational and extra-curricula experiences for ALL of our kids, not just your own.

Often it's not acknowledged that you too are working parents (probably doing harder work than those of us who are paid for our efforts), filling the gaps in our community without financial reward.

Your hard work is apparent in school events such as the recent Swimming Carnival, the regular updates to the school face-book page, the flurry of activity covering new books, etc., but most importantly makes itself apparent in our happy, well rounded kids.

Thank you from a very appreciative parent.

An opportunity for all parents...and it is in Maldon!

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?

Come along to this 2 hour workshop and find out more about how to use emotional intelligence to teach children about managing their feelings.

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 Edwards St Maldon
Cost: Free
Facilitator: Ky Gregg, Family Education Services (CatholicCare Sandhurst)
Childcare: Not available

For bookings and enquiries contact Amy on 5475 2093
info@maldomc.org.au

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to the commencement date. Early registration is encouraged.
Community Fun Day
Hosted by Maldon Football Netball Club
Mini Golf, Fairy Floss, Jumping Castle, Face Painting,
Bubble Soccer, Sausage Sizzle, Volley Ball
And loads more activities!
Special Guest: The Easter Bunny

Date: Sunday 20th March

Time: 11:00am-4:30pm

Venue: Maldon Blue Light Youth Camp
16 Phoenix Street Maldon 3463

Entry: Unlimited access to all activities
$5 Per Child Under 15, $15 Per Adult. $35 Per Family

See You There!

Taradale Mineral Springs Festival
Sunday 13 March 2016 10am – 4pm

- Handcrafted local wares
- Specialty foods, oils and multicultural delights
- Music & dance including flamenco, rock & folk music
- Historical displays & Devonshire teas
- Vintage and classic cars
- Art Exhibition - Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm
- Jumping castle & giant slide

Free Parking
$5 entry - children under 15yr free
BYO picnic basket & blanket

Art Exhibition Opening Friday 11th March 7-9pm