Principal’s chat

Welcome back to the start of an eleven week term 2. I hope that you all had an enjoyable break with your children. We are looking forward to a very busy but fun term.

Over the holiday break some of our students represented our school in the Maldon Easter Parade. Congratulations and thank you to the dedicated team of parents who put together a great float representing our school values and celebrating the diversity and acceptance in our school community. The children who took part came up with some great costumes and we had many countries represented including Japan, Holland, Poland, Italy, Germany, Mexico, Egypt and America. Thank you to Amy, Marvic, Anita, Beth, Catherine and Jess for your time and effort – it was great to have our school represented at such a big community event.

We have many exciting things happening this term.

This term our grade 5 and 6 students, along with Brett and Danica, will be taking part in a program called Kids as Catalysts. The program is run by facilitators from Kids Thrive and students will take part in an hour and a half session each Tuesday. Follow up will also take place during class time. The program is aimed at engaging young children with the local community and developing their skills as volunteers and their skills in giving back to others. It is also about developing their resilience and building skills for life.

Commencing on Thursday this week all grade 3 and 4 students will be participating in the Castlemaine Mail’s Newshound program which will involve them putting together a full page spread about our school that will run in the Castlemaine Mail. This is an initiative organised by the Castlemaine Mail and all schools in the Mount Alexander Shire were invited to participate. Each week a different school will have the

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 20th April
School Council 6.30pm

Wednesday 27th April
Castlemaine Secondary College open morning

Wednesday 27th April
School Council training, 7pm at C.S.C.

Friday 29th April
Grandparents and special friends day

Friday 6th May
Mother’s Day celebration

Tuesday 10th-Thursday 12th May
NAPLAN Gr 3 and 5

Monday 16th May
Pupil Free Day
opportunity to showcase their school. The program is aimed at encouraging literacy and a love of literature. The program has been kindly funded by local small goods company Don KR Castlemaine.

Jeff from the Castlemaine Mail is coming on Thursday to speak with the grade 3 and 4 students and they will then be working with Alisa to put together a page promoting our school and the great things that we do. Students will be writing the articles and providing art work and photos for publication.

This term our library will be back up and running for our classrooms to visit for their weekly sessions on a Tuesday. Debbie has been very busy getting things organised over the holidays and a big thank you to Trish (Liam and Lillian’s mum) for her hard work in sorting and helping organise the books. We are looking for parents who might be able to help out on a Monday to return books, using the computer, and then re-shelve them. If you are able to help out then please let us know at the office.

This term we have received some Sporting Schools funding to provide students with some netball coaching and experience. The funding is aimed at helping students to foster a lifelong interest in sport. Our focus is on developing skills associated with netball as well as learning the rules and how to play the game. All children from grade prep to 6 will take part in a session with a netball coach once a week for four weeks and we will also purchase some additional equipment with the funding. I have been working with Netball Victoria who support schools with the program and provide trained coaches.

Next Monday our grade 3 and 4’s, along with Alisa, Danica, Kay and parent helpers, will be heading to Camp Curumbene for 2 days and 3 nights. During this time the grade 5 students will join the grade 5/6 class with Brett.

It has been a very long and drawn out process, with many hoops to jump through and lots of paperwork to complete, but our tender documents, prepared by Chaulk Architects, have now been approved by the Department of Education for our planned building works. Our project will go out to tender this week. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening this week?

- Liz will be absent both this week and next.

What’s happening in the classroom?

Whole school behaviour this week: Making good choices

Easter hat parade: Well done to all students and teachers on the amazing hats that were created for our annual Easter hat parade last term.
Easter Creativity awards: Congratulations to Hugo and Daniel on their watercolour rabbit paintings.

Sports colours day: The sports colour day on the last day of term 1 raised $120 which will be forwarded to the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

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

Office info

Grade 3/4 camp payment and forms: The 3/4 camp consent form and medical information forms were due back at the office last term. If you are yet to return your forms please do so TOMORROW so that we can advise the camp providers of dietary requirements, allergies etc. If you have misplaced your forms they can be found on the school website www.maldonps.vic.edu.au.

A reminder to all families that the camp payment needs to be finalised by FRIDAY unless prior arrangements have been made. Please see Debra at the office if you have any concerns regarding payment.

Grade 5/6 camp: The $50 deposit for the grade 5/6 camp is now overdue. We ask that all families return their slip and deposit promptly so that planning for the camp is not delayed. If payment is an issue please see Debra at the office to arrange an alternative payment plan. If you have elected to pay for the camp in instalments the second instalment of $70 is due this Wednesday 13th April.

Term 2 netbook instalment due: Families who have students in grades 4 to 6 are reminded that, if you have elected to pay for the netbook by instalment, the second netbook instalment of $25 is due this Friday 15th April.

Student achievements

- Congratulations to Matilda and her brother Aussie on winning the best junior entry prize in the Maldon Easter parade. Matilda and Aussie were dressed as pirates and looked very cute!

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.

School community

Before and after school care: To make life a little easier enrolments and bookings for before and after school care can now be done online. Visit bendigo.ymca.org.au and follow the links to our Before and After School Care page. Don’t forget too….use it or you may lose it!

School photos: Our annual school photo day is this Thursday 14th April. A reminder to all families that they must complete and return the photo envelope on photo day if they would like to order photos. If you would like a family photograph, family envelopes are available at the office. Spare envelopes are also available at the office if you have misplaced yours.

Sport meeting: The next sport meeting will be held this Wednesday 13th April at 9.35am in the staff room. Please feel free to attend as the more members and ideas the better!

Grandparents and special friends day: Our 2016 Grandparents and special friends day will be held on Friday 29th April from 2.15pm-3.15pm. Watch for more information 7in future newsletters.

Fresh Fruit Friday:

This week’s volunteers: Shelley Woods and Anita Mason

Next week’s volunteers: Nicole Funston and Beth Yokohara
Host families needed for Japanese students from 3rd-5th August:

SHIZUOKA STUDENTS’ VISIT TO SHIRE OF MT ALEXANDER AUGUST 2016 (G2)

INVITATION TO FAMILIES
TO HOST JAPANESE STUDENTS

This year students from Shizuoka in Japan will visit the Shire of Mount Alexander for the eighteenth time. A group of about 70 students will be visiting us from Wednesday 3 August to Sunday 7 August. The main purpose of the visit is to share culture and friendship. The students’ school levels will range from Year 5 to Year 9. They will be billeted by families of students from Castlemaine Secondary College and a number of primary schools in the shire. Highlights of their stay will include experiencing family life with their host families, joining in with our students in school activities and visiting some local tourism attractions.

Our friendship with the people of Shizuoka has been further enhanced by two very successful visits to Japan in 2013 and 2015 involving small groups of secondary students. The respective communities of Shizuoka and the Shire of Mount Alexander continue to value this program very highly and the continued support of our school communities is integral to the continuation of its success.

So if you are thinking of taking part in the program this year, that’s great. We would be very grateful if you could you also encourage other families to be involved too.

Host families will provide accommodation, meals, transport and friendly hospitality for our Japanese guests from the Wednesday evening to the Sunday morning. During the weekdays the students will be involved with school and other activities in the local area as well as a farewell party on the Saturday evening. Saturday, otherwise, will be an individual family day. To help ensure that the experience is as rewarding as possible for both hosts and guests, appropriate information and support will be available. Host families will also receive payment for their service.

Students and families who may be interested in being involved in the billeting program can obtain more detailed information, a host family profile form and specific Working With Children Check information from the school office. These are also available by email request to Peter Nunan (peterunnan@hotmail.com). The completed form etc should be returned to the school office by Friday 13 May.

Everyone over the age of 18 years in a host family is required by the Department of Education to complete a ‘Working with Children Check’ (WWCC). This is a simple procedure, cost free to volunteers. Your information pack will contain a sheet outlining the application procedure. WWCCs remain current for three years. If you have a current WWCC card from a school, your work or other community organisation, we simply require a photocopy with your completed host family profile.

The pairs of Japanese students will be matched as well as possible with our families according to ages, gender and interests.

Matching information will be sent to families by email.

For further information please contact Peter Nunan on 0459362158 or email as above.
More Easter parade photos:

Community

Castlemaine Circus Term 2

Have you seen our new home at the Castlemaine Goods Shed?

Join over 100 local students who say circus classes makes them feel ‘alive’, ‘excited about learning new things’ and ‘like I can do anything’

We now offer 11 weekly classes with 2 classes for each age group as well as 3 adults classes.

Contact Jane for more information:
0437 186 711

castlemainecircus@gmail.com
www.castlemainecircus.com.au
CIRCUS SKILLS FOR KIDS

This is an opportunity locally, with an instructor of 35 years of experience, to learn basic circus and acrobatic training in a fun, safe and relaxed environment.

Flexibility, Core strength, Balance, Basic skills at your pace, Fun, Team Work.

Monday 18 April
3.45pm – 5:00pm
$125 for 8 weeks

Call Margaret for details
0403 451 802
margaretkirby.com.au/circus

Venue: Maldon Neighbourhood Centre Hall

Margaret Kirby has spent most of her life involved with and teaching gymnastics, acrobatics and circus skills. She teaches with humour and a deep understanding of the learning process. Posture, weight bearing activities and core strength work is all critical to life-long physical health. These classes compliment every other sporting or fitness activity.