Principals chat

Today some families will receive a parent opinion survey to complete. The parent opinion survey is currently underway throughout the state to assist with future planning and improvement in Victorian schools. The annual survey is sent out to randomly selected families and contains a range of questions designed to help monitor how well the school is meeting students’ needs. Forty families in our school community will be surveyed. The survey is designed to take no more than twenty minutes to complete and all responses are anonymous and treated confidentially. The survey is a chance to increase partnerships between schools, families and the wider community and assists schools to self-evaluate and plan for the future.

Your responses will help us to reflect on current activities and gain a picture of what is working well and what might need to be changed or reflected upon. As a result of previous feedback from parent surveys we have continued programs, including many of the extra curricular activities that we offer, and also made changes to other things including our reporting student progress to parents’ process.

Participating families are asked to return the completed survey to school by this Friday 29th July. The results of the survey are made available to schools in term 4 and the survey findings are shared with the school community via our school council.

As mentioned in previous newsletters we were fortunate to receive sporting schools funding for our term 3 Athletics program. The funding will be used to provide athletics coaching, including skill and technique development across all year levels over a range of events. Part of the funding has also been used to purchase new athletics equipment to ensure that we can provide a comprehensive program.

Alisa is our sports coordinator and she has been very busy organising an Athletics coach and also purchasing the equipment. Our coaching started today with John Bond from Maryborough Athletics Club and students and teachers were taught the correct techniques and skills required for discus and shot put. We are expecting our new equipment to arrive at the end of the week. Remember to keep Friday 26th August free for our Athletics Carnival. It is a great day for parents to come along and help out and also see their child participating.
On **Friday 5th August** we will be welcoming approximately 60 students from Japan for our annual **Japanese Cultural Day**. All our grade 4 to 6 students have a Japanese buddy and they spend the day with them. They have also been busy making some special gifts for them.

The day involves a tabloid sports carnival and lunch for all students and then the grade 4 to 6 students have fun on a steam train ride in the afternoon.

We do **need parents to help out on this day**. We need volunteers to assist with the sports morning and also for the food preparation. Two notes accompany the newsletter today regarding this. It is a really fun day for everyone involved so please volunteer to help out if you are at all able.

It is fantastic that we have four families hosting students Japanese students this year-the most we have ever had!

In line with Department of Education Policy we provide two opportunities per year for formal **parent teacher interviews**. This term we will be holding parent teacher interviews over two days - **Tuesday 2nd August** and **Thursday 11th August** from 2:00pm – 6:00pm. The purpose of interviews this term is to discuss your child’s progress and to set goals. Today all families will receive an allocated time for one of these days. Please return the reply slip promptly to ensure that we can confirm times or find an alternative time if required.

We are still working with Castlemaine Family Day Care to organise and finalise arrangements for **after school care**. I am hoping for some further information this week and will keep families posted. We are hoping that it will be up and running next week. Please contact the office to confirm your interest in using the service as spaces will be limited to seven students each day.

Just a reminder that **students are to be dropped off and collected at the front of the school**. We have had an increasing number of parents dropping students off at the back of the school near the staff car park and police station. For safety and supervision we ask that parents drop
their child at the front entrance of the school unless prior arrangements have been made. Due to the narrow road and limited space it can become very congested and unsafe at the back of the school.

Warm regards
Jodie

What’s happening this week?

- Jess will be absent on Friday and will be replaced by Kellie.
- Jodie will be absent all day on Friday.

Fundraising news

Wood raffle: A reminder to all families to sell and return their raffle ticket books by Monday 8th August. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 14th August at the Maldon Market.

Maldon Market: A reminder that we need volunteers to help out at the Maldon Market on Sunday 14th August to collect the gold coin donation at the entrance, sell raffle tickets and also run the sausage sizzle. We will need approximately 12 volunteers on the day so please let Debra at the office know if you can help or text/phone Nicole on 0417 540 331. The market runs from 8am to 2pm.

What’s happening in the classroom?

Whole school behaviour this week: I respect myself, others and the environment

Pots, pans and wooden spoons needed: One of the Kids as Catalyst groups is creating a music wall at the pre-school as their project and they are looking for donations of old/unwanted pots, pans and wooden spoons. If you have any you can donate they will be put to very good use. Please leave all donations at the office or give them to Danica.

Portfolios to be returned: Please ensure that you complete the comment section and return your child’s portfolio to school immediately so that staff can start work on them for semester 2.

Prep to 2 inquiry: Last week students designed and created people and animals from fruit and vegetables.

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

Permission notes to be returned:

- Kids as Catalyst excursion to Ian Grenda’s farm (selected students) MUST be returned tomorrow morning before school

- Japanese Cultural visit form (all students) is due back by this Friday July 29th

- Grade 3 and 4 AFL 9’s and Grade 5 and 6 AFL 9’s permission slip and payment is due back on Thursday 4th August

Thank you

- To Shelley Woods for offering to coordinate the catering for Japanese Day. Please support Shelley by preparing/cooking food and/or volunteering to help on the day.
Help needed for Fresh Fruit Friday: Additional volunteers for fruit cutting and popcorn making are still required for term 4. Please let Debra if you can help out so that the term 4 roster can be finalised a.s.a.p.

This week’s volunteers: Jacki Gautam and Shelley Carmichael

Next week’s volunteers: Lee-Ann Smith and Ken Hercott

Oral health screening:

Bendigo Health Community Dental Service

Bendigo Health’s Community Dental Service visited Maldon Primary School to provide dental checks for 52 students. The dental team were very happy to see so many students and would like to thank those that participated in the program.

Brushing teeth twice a day and a healthy diet play a key role in oral health, and developing good oral health habits from an early age helps to prevent problems as an adult.

Regular dental visits are also important to address any issues before they become problematic. Up to half of primary school children can have tooth decay and gum disease, which can develop without any pain. Having a dental examination before issues arise can help children have a positive experience, and there are many preventative treatments available to help maintain your child’s oral health.

ALL children 12 years and under are eligible to access Bendigo Health’s Community Dental Service free of charge. If you don’t have a family dentist please contact the friendly dental team to make an appointment.

Bendigo Health Community Dental Service is made up of fully qualified oral health therapists, dentists and dental assistants. They are experienced in working with children and aim to make a child’s visit a positive experience while providing quality dental care.

To make an appointment please call 5454 7994, or visit www.bendigohealth.org.au to register your child/children.

Looking after your teeth and gums

EAT WELL - Sweet foods can cause tooth decay. Food and drinks high in sugar (particularly added sugar) should be limited, especially between meals. Dairy products like cheese and plain milk can help prevent tooth decay.

DRINK WELL - Encourage children to drink plenty of tap water. Plain milk is a better option than flavoured milk. Limit soft drinks, fruit juice, cordials, sports drinks, energy drinks, flavoured water and yoghurt drinks as they are high in sugar, which is linked to tooth decay. Did you know that a can of lemonade or cola contains the equivalent of 8 teaspoons of sugar, and a bottle of sports drink has the equivalent of 7 teaspoons of sugar?

CLEAN WELL - Everyone should brush their teeth twice a day; after breakfast and before bed. Help your children brush their teeth until they are seven; most children are not able to use a toothbrush properly before then. Baby teeth are very important to help children talk, eat and smile. Everyone should have regular dental checks.
Music lessons:

♫ Guitar Lessons
♫ Drums Lessons

Places still available, BOOK NOW!

For enquiries, please contact Drew

Ph. 0407 502 438
drew@horsemusic@gmail.com

Extra curricular catch up

Division football: Maldon sent seven players, Austin, Oliver, Dylan, Jacob, Xavior, Isaac and Darius, to combine with Elphinston, Newstead and Chewton to field a footy team for the carnival at Catholic College Junortoun. The boys played five matches against schools from around the area, some much bigger than ours. The students had a lot of fun getting to know all the other players and playing some good footy, winning two of their five matches. Thanks to Lachie for coaching the team, Mr Stewart from Elphinston Primary for organising the team and all the parents for taking the students there!