

Be kind, be brave, be your best

Newsletter no 3
February 14th, 2023

Principal's Chat

Hi everyone,

Today we started our 'Meet and Greet' Parent Teacher interviews. While these were happening the grade 6 student leaders ran activities for the other students to participate in. This is a great way for the older students to build on their leadership skills, work as a team and make connections with the younger students.

Over the next week, classroom teachers will be sharing their class newsletter with families to let you know what things are happening in the classroom over the term. The wellbeing theme in classrooms this term is 'Me and My Emotions'. Students will be learning about Emotional Literacy and Personal Strengths and focusing on building positive relationships, having a growth mindset and understanding our values and character traits.

This year NAPLAN assessments for students in Grades 3 and 5 will be happening in Term 1. Our first NAPLAN assessment will be on March 15th. Students will undertake assessments in Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. The NAPLAN results will show the levels of the students at the time of the test, how much they have grown academically from grade 3 to grade 5 and can also assist the teachers to identify whole school areas to work on in their teaching. Teachers may use NAPLAN data for reporting, however they also use every day observations, work samples and other assessments to grade each child for their report each semester.

The Maldon Brass Band school program will be starting their in school lessons on Monday 20th February. Vinnie Bourke will be the music teacher and lessons will be in small groups with students grouped according to the instrument they selected. Students who expressed interest will be given more information this week. I would like to thank the Maldon Brass Band for this special opportunity, and, in particular, Daniel Clarke and Les Roberts for leading this initiative.

A reminder to all parents/families of our school times:

8:45am Teacher supervision in yard

8:52am Get Ready bell

8:55am Start Learning bell (fruit break at 10am)

8:55am – 10:55am Learning session 1

10:55am Eat morning tea in classroom

11:00am - 11:20am Outside play

11:20am – 12:50pm Learning session 2

12:50pm – 1:00pm Eat lunch in classroom

1:00pm – 1:45pm Outside play



THIS WEEK AT M.P.S.

Wednesday 15th February

- Prep rest day
- School Council, 6.30pm

Thursday 16th February

- Swimming, Gr 1 - 6

Friday 17th February

- NO Friday fundraiser
- NO Assembly

Monday 20th February

- Maldon Brass band program commences (selected students)
- Swimming, Gr 1 – 6

Tuesday 21st February

- Swimming, Gr 1 - 6
- Parent Teacher interviews, 3.30pm-4.30pm



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 24th February
Welcome Picnic, all families
5.30-7.30pm

Wednesday 15th March
School Council, 6.30pm

1:45pm – 3:15pm Learning session 3

3:15pm School finishes

3:15pm – 3:30pm Teacher supervision in yard

It is important to be at school earlier than 8:55am to ensure the children have a successful day. It helps them socialise with their peers, get organised for the day and get settled, ready to start learning when the bell goes. **Please support your child in this and help them to be at school in time for the Get Ready bell (8.52am).**

Regular school attendance is a critical factor in student success. For learning to take place, students need to be at school, in class and engaged in learning. Students who regularly miss days of school miss valuable opportunities for education that often cannot be regained. Attendance at school has life-long benefits. Students who attend more school days per year tend to complete more years of school and achieve higher academic results. Regular attendance is also associated with the development of social skills, including friendship building, team work, communication skills and self esteem.

Our aim is for each student to have a 95% attendance rate or above for the school year.

Attendance at or above 98%	These students have missed 4 days or less in a school year -They have every chance of achieving to the best of their ability -These students are likely to have positive friendship groups
Attendance 95%-97%	These students have missed 5-10 days in a school year -They are more likely to be achieving well at school -With only occasional absences, these students will find it fairly easy to get back in touch with the learning program after absences
Attendance 90%-94%	These students have missed 11-20 days in a school year -These students may find it challenging to keep in touch with the learning program -The student is at risk, aim to improve this student's attendance
Attendance 80%-89%	These students have missed 21-40 days in a school year -These students have missed up to 1 day every week, which equates to 2 ½ years schooling missed by Year 12 -It will be very difficult to keep in touch with school work and to maintain social connections
Attendance below 80%	These students have missed more than 40 days in a school year -These students have missed more than 1 day per week -Students will be disconnected from school. They are almost certain to experience academic and social difficulties

To support student attendance families are encouraged NOT to book or take family holidays/days off during the school term. If this is unavoidable please speak to the classroom teacher PRIOR to the absence so that the absence can be approved and work can be provided where necessary.

This week our whole school behaviour focus is..I try new things with a positive attitude (Be Brave). Some of the things the classes will be discussing are:

- I am brave enough to try new things
- I have a go even if I'm not sure how things will turn out
- I bounce back from mistakes or challenges

- I keep a positive mindset, I try again
- I encourage others to have a go, I help others.

Below are some articles for parents/carers to read with tips and strategies to help build resilient children.

3 – 8 year olds: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/school-age/behaviour/understanding-behaviour/resilience-how-to-build-it-in-children-3-8-years>

Pre teens: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/development/social-emotional-development/resilience-in-teens>

Supporting Children with Autism: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/autism/development/social-emotional-development/resilience-autistic-children-teenagers>

The YMCA has scheduled some extra swimming lessons for students in Grades 1 to 6 this term due to the limited swimming program they were able to offer at the end of last year. These swimming lessons will begin this Thursday and will run for 5 sessions over a two week period. The weather is looking perfect for the swimming dates! Our normal swimming program will remain in place for Term 4 and will involve all students from Grade Prep to 6.

Take care,

Alisa

Office information

Permission forms and payment for school activities: The majority of our permission forms for activities and excursions are published on uEducateUs and parents are required to give permission directly on the app. Please see Debra in the office if you need help accessing the uEducateUs app. If any payment is required for an activity or excursion this is made separately using cash, direct deposit or BPay. Please see Debra if you would like your unique family BPay details to make payments.

A reminder to families of students in Grades 1-6 that permission for the swimming lessons needs to be given by TOMORROW.

Camps, Sport and Excursions fund: The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps to ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. **Families who hold a valid means tested concession card are eligible to apply.** A special consideration category is also available.

If you are eligible to apply but have not yet submitted an application please contact the office asap.

Absence notifications: Parents are reminded that if a student is absent from school they are required to notify the school of the reason for the absence. Parents can notify the school of student absences in four ways:

- the preferred method is using uEducateUs. Go to attendance on the LHS menu, then absent notes on the tabs across the top, then +Create Absent Note and enter the required information. Don't forget to save at the end!
- by calling the office on 5475 1484.
- sending an absence form in with a sibling.
- sending an email to maldon.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

If you are aware of an upcoming absence e.g. dentist appointment you can give us prior notification of this using uEducateUs or an absence form.

DATES FOR 2023

School Council meetings

- February 15th
- March 15th
- May 17th
- June 14th
- August 16th
- September 13th
- October 18th
- November 15th

School Photos

25th May

Camps

Grade 3 and 4

September 11th -13th

Grade 5 and 6

October 2nd - 4th

Working Bees

May 7th and October 15th

Fundraising Events

Saturday May 27th

Comedy night fundraiser

Thursday November 30th

Shopping Spree fundraiser

Social /Community events

Friday Feb 24th

Welcome Picnic

Monday 10th April

Easter Parade

Thursday 18th May

School Concert

T.B.A.

Special Persons Day

T.B.A.

150th Celebration Day

Curriculum days

T.B.A.

Something which may interest our families...

As mentioned on the safety page there is an empowering page which covers a limited selection of the information they need to hold a safe and meaningful conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it is needed, this guide forms a core platform of many which you believe treated adults should be aware of. Please visit our national helpline for further guidance, advice & tips for parents.



YouTube is an online platform - owned by Google - where anyone can upload & watch video content. All different types of information, advice & entertainment are uploaded & billions of people tune in to watch, rate & comment on it. As a parent, it's important you understand exactly what content your children might be seeing.

Tips To Protect Your Child

APPLY 'RESTRICTED MODE'
 Best if used in conjunction with a child's account, or a supervised video from your children. If you or a child's own account is restricted, it may be a signal of because of a past inappropriate content. It may be restricted in the settings menu on each individual device.

CHANGE WHO CAN SEE VIDEOS
 You can change the privacy of your child's content in the settings. By default, videos are public (available to all). Private only allows people you share it with. It can be shared, or it can be shared and it can be shared further.

BLOCK CONCERNING USERS
 To help protect your child from cyber-bullies, harassment or persistent offensive comments, you can block individual users. Do this by clicking your child's video or in the user it stops the user being able to contact your child in any way.

CUSTOMISE THEIR EXPERIENCE
 In the world of what your child watches, you can control what they see. You can turn off recommendations, or you can choose what your child can watch. It's also good to turn off auto-play by toggling the blue bar on the 'Up Next' list when watching a video.

CREATE A 'FAMILY' GOOGLE ACCOUNT
 Create a Google account to be used by the whole family. This will allow you to monitor more of what your child is watching, especially if sharing. If you or a child's YouTube page will display their most watched videos, regardless of content, and videos it suggest channels.

GET YOUR OWN ACCOUNT
 Create your own account so you can explore features yourself. Learn how to flag inappropriate videos, how to make a comment, how to block users. This will help you feel more confident when providing advice & guidance to your child.

BE MINDFUL OF CYBERBULLYING
 Once your child has posted a video, a real divide in devices can be felt. Stranger may choose to comment and level up, both positively & negatively. So be careful to check comments & any other interactions your child is making through the platform.

GET TO KNOW POPULAR CHANNELS
 It's good to know what channels are most popular with your child. Some of the most popular channels and digital creators are: PewDiePie, MrBlippi, Zoella, KSI, and Markiplier. Smooth, Thatcharlie & Cooper Lee.

DON'T ASSUME YOUR CHILD IS TOO YOUNG
 YouTube and YouTube Kids are quickly becoming the chosen viewing platforms for children between the ages of 5-10. It's likely that this will only increase. It's important to understand the positives & negatives of the platform.

What parents need to know about YOUTUBE

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EASY TO ACCESS

A child with a Gmail account can sign in to YouTube & access videos. There is a limit to the age-restricted, but the platform makes it so it's verification, making kids can get around the rule with the date of birth. This can enable access to violent & inappropriate content.

USERS CAN PRIVATELY CONTACT YOUR CHILD

When your child is signed in to YouTube with their Gmail account, there are various ways they can use direct online messages. This could be via the 'Message' tab. There is a scope here for a stranger or your child to contact.

YOUTUBE SUGGESTS RELATED CONTENT

YouTube will often 'auto play' videos based on your child's viewing habits. This is to show related & appropriate content. But the problem is it's up to the parent to take the steps and to ensure private content that isn't automatically related.

'CHALLENGE VIDEOS' CAN GO TOO FAR

Challenge videos refer to a stunt or an act of courage or a record. Many challenge videos can be harmful & offer a good cause, like the Ice Bucket Challenge. But some challenge videos are like the 'Bird Box Challenge'.

SHARING VIDEOS RISKS YOUR CHILD'S PRIVACY

If your child has a Google account, they can upload their own videos. To do this they must create a personal profile page known as a 'YouTube Channel'. The videos uploaded here can be viewed, commented on & shared by anyone. This can put your child's privacy at risk.

Meet our expert

Pete Bell is a writer with over 10 years of research and analysis. He's doing with his up-to-date research for the National Online Safety. Pete has contributed to which has been published in 'The Independent' & 'The Daily Mail' as well as a court case as a subject matter expert for industry law firms.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com | Twitter: @nationalonlinesafety | Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety



Term 1, 2023
Free eSafety parent and carer webinars

Join eSafety's expert education team for a free live webinar designed for parents and carers.

Term 1 topics:

- **eSafety 101: how eSafety can help you (30 minutes)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.
- **Setting your child up for success online (30 minutes)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary school.
- **Getting the most out of gaming (45 minutes)**
For parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.
- **Navigating online friendships (30 minutes)**
For parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

For more information and to register now: esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars

esafety.gov.au

What's happening in the community?



Clunes
Neighbourhood House

CLUNES
FORMER FREE LENDING LIBRARY

OPEN HOUSE FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023
11AM - 3PM

@ your leisure activities

- Yard Games
- Giant Checkers, Giant Jenga, connect 4
- Kids water play area
- Explore the Former Free Lending Library
- Chalk Challenge Footpath
- Dance to the DJ!
- Petting Zoo + Ponies
- Explore an ambulance
- Market stalls

Scheduled activities

- Ukulele performance by Victoria
- Craft time with CycleUp Gifts
- Clay creatures with Rebecca
- The Great Paper Aeroplane Race
- Dunk Tank teachers, business owners + others!
- Plastic bag weaving with Mery
- SoccerZone skills session
- Raffle Draw

*check the facebook event page for scheduled times and updates

Free entry + loads of free activities

SCAN ME

Join the Facebook Event for more details

@ CLUNES FORMER FREE LENDING LIBRARY
 NEW HOME OF CLUNES NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE!
 6 TEMPLETON ST CLUNES