

Mackellar Primary School

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Weekly Newsletter —February 8 2019 — Issue 1

Principal's Message



Dear Mackellar Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope that you have had an opportunity to relax and recharge whilst sharing time with each other during the holidays. It's wonderful to see our students greeting each other and making new friends as they enthusiastically approach a new beginning. Students have settled into their classes and are ready to take on the challenges that a new year brings. It was great to see many parents attend Mackellar's first whole school assembly on Monday. **All members of our community are welcome to our assemblies that are held each Monday of the term from 9:05am to 9:30am.**

On Wednesday, we welcomed our newest members of our Mackellar learning community, when our 2019 Preps had their first official day at school. It was such a momentous occasion for so many families and I welcome all the new families and thank you for entrusting us with your child and their learning. Prep teachers, Kerrie Elsbury, Brenda Elliott and Kerry Pasharis were absolutely thrilled to have their students begin this exciting developmental milestone.

Condolences

On behalf of the staff, parents and wider Mackellar School Community, I wish to pass on our deepest sympathies to the Meaney family after the passing of Sharyn Meaney. Much loved and appreciated by our school community, Sharyn managed our school canteen for twenty years. Sharyn has contributed greatly to our school and as a proud grandparent, her presence and support has made a difference. Sharyn's sincerity, generosity and kindness will never be forgotten. Words feel empty at times like this, but to the Meaney family, please be assured that you are not alone and are at the forefront of our thoughts.



2019 Staff

It is with great pleasure to welcome the arrival of some new members of staff for 2019:

Joanne Pullens – Business Manager

David Cocks – Curriculum Leader

Tracey Ngo – Grade 1 Teacher

Gabriel Luzar – Grade 4 Teacher

Gemma Matias – Grade 5 Teacher

Stephanie Sousa – Grade 6 Teacher

Asir Tutuncu – Grade 6 Teacher

Christina Theodosiou – Education Support Officer

Retirement

Congratulations to Judy Parker who has recently retired from education. Judy devoted 24 years of teaching to Mackellar Primary School. Many children and families benefited from her expertise in Literacy,

Upcoming Events

February

- **Wed 20**
Whole School Photos

March

- **Wed 13**
Whole School Beach Excursion
- **Thur 14**
Smiling Mind Parent Information Evening-7.00pm-8.00pm



2019 School Terms

Term 1 - Jan 30 to April 5

Term 2 - April 23 to Jun 28

Term 3 - July 15 to Sept 20

Term 4 - Oct 7 to Dec 18

particularly Reading Recovery. Judy will be missed by students, families and colleagues.

Congratulations to the following staff who have gained employment at other schools:

Fanny Elliott

We wish Fanny every success at Aitken Hill Primary School. Fanny devoted over 20 years to Mackellar as a classroom teacher and Literacy Leader. Although Fanny is now part of a new school setting, she will be greatly missed by our school community.

Deb Jones

We also wish Deb every success at Footscray Secondary College. Deb's appointment is for twelve months.

Monica Monaghan

Monica has taken on an Office Manager role at Thomas Chirnside Primary School and we also wish her the best in her promotion.

Both Deb and Monica will also be greatly missed.

Car Parks

The school car parks are only for use by staff as authorised by the Department of Education and Training. **THEY MUST NOT BE USED FOR THE DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP STUDENTS.**

Please observe all parking restrictions in the streets surrounding the school.

The school appreciates the difficulties concerned with parking but has no control over

Brimbank Council by-laws. Parking Inspectors and Traffic Police regularly patrol the streets around the school. Fines are over \$150.00 per infringement. Double parking is prohibited. If parents are able to walk their children to and from school it will be a good way to keep fit and this will also reduce the traffic around the school.

Student Wellbeing

As children progress through Primary School, they develop an increasing understanding of what it means to be a positive member of their immediate class, school community, wider community and ultimately the global community. Students develop a sense of **global citizenship** when they learn to respect key universal values such as peace, sustainability and respecting the rights and dignity of all people. They develop an understanding of the world and their place in it. Celebrating Awareness Days such as Safer Internet Day, Harmony Day and Anti-Action Against Bullying and Violence Day provides important, personal, social and 'life learning' for students. All of these days will be celebrated this term.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday, Mackellar celebrated Safer Internet Day which is an annual, worldwide event to encourage safe and respectful online communication. Our students were engaged in various activities around the following themes and the **4 Rs of Online Safety: RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, REASONING and RESILIENCE.**

Students also revisited their **iPad Agreements** and expectations about how to use technology safely. Please take time to have conversations with your child/children around safe use of all forms of technology, particularly when online.

2019 iPad Agreements have been sent home this week. Please ensure that you and your child/children have signed this important document and returned it to school.

The 4Rs of online safety

- Respect**
I treat myself and others the way I like to be treated
- Responsibility**
I am accountable for my actions
- Reasoning**
I question what is real
- Resilience**
I get back up from tough situations

Office of the eSafety Commissioner | esafety.gov.au/saferinternetday

Safer Internet Day 2019 Tuesday 5 February
Together for a better internet

RESPECT • RESPONSIBILITY • REASONING • RESILIENCE

Smiling Mind for Parents and Carers. Please Save the Date!

Personal and social capabilities are developed and fostered through various programs at Mackellar. A fundamental component of The Resilience Project is **Mindfulness** and we are extremely proud to announce that we have a Mindfulness evening planned for our parents and carers. Mindfulness experts from Smiling Mind are visiting our school on **Thursday 14th March at 7pm to 8pm.** Please save this date and come along. More

information about the evening will be provided in the coming weeks

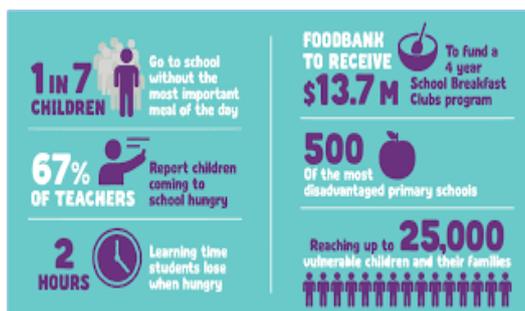
Breakfast Club

If your child isn't eating breakfast at home, he/she is very welcome to come along to Mackellar's Breakfast Club, where he/she will be happily served with a smile. Our Breakfast Club program is an initiative of the Victorian Government in partnership with Foodbank Victoria. The program delivers healthy breakfast foods to many primary schools across Victoria and our school is one of them. Breakfast Club enables children to:

- enjoy a nutritious breakfast
- engage and participate fully in all the educational and social opportunities throughout the day
- get a kick-start to the day by being refueled with energy and nutrients (the previous meal is typically 8 to 10 hours before waking)

WHEN: Monday to Friday (every morning)

TIME: 8.45am to 8.55am **LOCATION:** At the Before & After School Program building.



Kind Regards,

Tanya Lindsay-Clark

Student Wellbeing

XUNO

There are many features in XUNO, with more being developed. Teachers are gradually using more and more of these features in their teaching and it will become an increasingly important tool for students.

XUNO can be accessed from anywhere, online and on just about any device.

Through XUNO, you will have access to:

- Easy communication with your child's teachers
- Your child's past attendance statistics
- Past reports
- On demand and NAPLAN results
- Notices about school activities
- School calendar
- Tasks set for your child by their teacher

You can access XUNO here:

Website: mackellarps.xuno.com.au

Use your school supplied username and password to logon. Go on, give it a spin NOW

The school will NEED a valid email address to supply your login details and to stay informed with the school.

If you would like more information about XUNO or require assistance with logging in, please do not hesitate to contact the school on (03) 9364 0200 and we would be happy to assist you.

Facebook Page for Mackellar Primary School

Mackellar is excited to announce the start of an official Facebook page.

This will be used to promote and communicate news, announcements, information, important dates, questions and answers and celebrations.

This page will not tolerate any bullying, unsafe behaviour and negativity towards the school or community. It is under admin control and supervision.

Please like our official page.

<https://m.facebook.com/MackellarPrimarySchool/>

We are on the web

www.mackellarps.vic.edu.au

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