Principal’s Message

Starting the School Day

Our school day begins at 9am, with an expectation that all classrooms doors are open no later than 8:50am. Yard supervision begins at 8:45 and there should be no students dropped off at school and left unattended prior to 8:45am. Our Before School Care Program runs each morning from 6:30am to 8:45am for parents who may require to drop their children off at school prior to 8:45. Please see the administration staff at the office to enrol in the program.

Break in

It is very disappointing to report that the school has been broken into on Wednesday morning and also this morning. The police attended due to our alarm system activation and our security company were also on site. There has been some property damage due to both these break-ins and I would like to thank Colin Meany for his quick response in repairing this damage so we can run the school with business as usual for our staff and students. As a community please just be vigilant, and if you happen to see something suspicious please report it to the police.

Extreme weather timetable

Today we had an extreme weather timetable. Students remained indoors in the comfort of air-conditioned classrooms after 12pm due to the high temperature and high winds.

SAFER INTERNET DAY—7TH FEBRUARY, 2017

This week, students at MPS are celebrating Safer Internet Day by engaging in various learning activities recommended by the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner.

Students have focussed on various strategies they need to use to protect themselves when using the internet.

A DIY (Do It Yourself Checklist) highly recommends that students:

• Use strong settings and passwords, and update these regularly
• Balance their time between use of screens and other activities
• Respect others and only post what they’d say to someone’s face
• Gain consent before sharing a video or image of another person, and
• Have protective and secure settings on their digital devices.

If you wish to explore further strategies and programs, you will find them at www.esafety.com.au

iParent is a comprehensive link on the eSafety site where parents can learn about the digital environment and keep updated on their children’s technology use. Here you can find guidance for using safety settings on your family’s web-connected devices, tips for choosing movies and games and strategies for keeping young people safe online. https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent
Child Safe Standards

Mackellar Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children are safe and protected from any form of child abuse. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities if we are concerned about a child’s safety, which we follow rigorously.

This year, the Victorian Government introduced the Child Safe Standards, which are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools, to ensure they are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, we have developed:

- Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements
- A child safe policy and statement of commitment to child safety
- A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
- Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
- Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
- Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse, and
- Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

Policies related to the Child Safe Standards may be found our school website in the near future. For further information, please refer to http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/

We really need your help!

We are currently organising Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention materials for the classroom. Teachers will use these materials to support literacy learning.

We would really appreciate the help of anyone who has time to laminate the materials for us. All this involves is putting A4 sheets in laminating pouches and feeding them through laminators. An area is set up in the 5/6 building for you to do this and we will show you what to do.

All volunteers are required to have a Working with Children's Check. If you don’t have one, we can help you.

Please contact Anna Kourkoulis, Judy Parker or Lynne Strasser.

Looking forward to your assistance and working with you.
School Photo Day

Wednesday 22nd February, 2017

Family photo envelopes are available from the office.

If paying by envelope, please return payment and envelope by:

Friday 17th February 2017

ART SMOCKS

Parents and Guardians

Just a quick reminder that all students from Prep to Six require an art smock for Visual Arts. Shop bought art smocks or an old shirt or tee-shirt several sizes too big which can be worn comfortably over your child’s uniform are sufficient. The art smock is to protect the school uniform from accidental spills which can occur during art classes when the students are busy being creative.

Please ensure that all art smocks are marked with your child’s first and surname and with the name of their grade for 2017. Art smocks can be handed to the class teacher for your convenience, or to me in the art room.

Best Wishes
Judy Tanner
Visual Arts Specialist.
SUNSMART

The SunSmart Policy for Mackellar Primary School states that **all children should be wearing a hat during outdoor play for Term 1 and Term 4**. If a child isn’t wearing a hat during these times, there is ‘no hat, no play’ and he/she is expected to stay safely under our shaded areas. Please ensure your child has a hat at all times so as he/she is not missing out on play time outdoors with their peers.

For further information, please refer to the following links:

http://www.sunsmart.com.au


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2017 Breakfast Program at Mackellar Primary School

The School Breakfast Clubs 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

(Previous meal is typically 8 to 10 hours before waking)

If your children aren’t eating breakfast at home, they are very welcome to come along to Mackellar’s Breakfast Club, where they will be happily served with a smile.

**WHEN:** Monday to Friday (every morning)

**TIME:** 8.45am to 8.55am

**LOCATION:** At the Before & After School Program building.