



Mill Park Primary School

Newsletter

Blamey Avenue Mill Park 3082 PO Box 163 Mill Park 3082
t 03 9404 3337 f 03 9404 2757 e mill.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au www.millparkps.vic.edu.au

ISSUE 40
20th Dec 2017

Our vision is to be a dynamic school, promoting integrity, life long learning and the attainment of excellence

Year 5 & 6 BDSSA Summer Sports due 31st Jan - \$28

Merry Christmas
and a
happy & peaceful New Year
from all the staff at
Mill Park Primary School.

Coming Events

Dec 22 End of Term 4 2017 - Dismissal @ 1.00pm

2018

Jan 31 Term 1 begins @ 9.00am

Feb 2 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Feb 5 2018 Preps begin school @ 9.00am

Feb 9 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Feb 16 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Feb 21 District Swimming Carnival

Feb 23 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Feb 23 Family Picnic

Mar 2 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Mar 5 Whole School Photos

Mar 7 2017 Graduates Afternoon Tea

Mar 9 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Mar 23 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

Mar 30 Year 5 & 6 Interschool Summer Sport

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Please note that the final assembly for the year will be held on **Friday, 22nd December 2017, beginning at 9.15am**. Our Graduates will perform for the school for the final time.



LAST DAY OF TERM – 1.00pm FINISHING TIME

Please note that the finishing time for the last day of term, **Friday, 22nd December 2017, is at 1.00pm**. Parents are being given plenty of notice to make arrangements for their child to be collected from their classroom at 1.00pm on the last day.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert is a special event at our school and it was pleasing to see so many people in attendance, especially since it was such a hot day. Our students looked and sounded wonderful and I thank parents for making the great effort to get into the Christmas spirit. Many thanks go to Ms Carol Vidmar and Mr Adam Horne for their excellent work as MCs.

School Council Meetings in 2018

20th February, 20th March*, 24th April, 22nd May, 19th June, 31st July, 21st August, 18th September, 23rd October, 20th November, 11th December (if required)

*AGM @ 6.30pm

Finance & Fundraising; Buildings & Grounds; Education & Policy; Community Building & Relations Committee Meetings - 13th February 2018

OSHC - 2018

Thank you to the PFA for organising the Christmas Raffle. Your time, enthusiasm and energy are greatly appreciated. I hope Santa was watching and is very kind to you this year! If you were one of the winners – **Congratulations!**

BRIAN WOOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

Mr Brian Wooster was a parent at our school from 1990 who gave exemplary service to Mill Park Primary School over many years. Brian was highly respected for his tireless commitment, his quest for the ongoing development of the school and for his untiring support to students, staff and parents at the school.

Brian was truly passionate about Mill Park Primary School and this award is designed as a tribute to both his personal integrity and to the outstanding way he modelled the spirit of service. To honour his memory School Council decided, with the kind consent of his family, to create an annual award to a parent who has also given enormous voluntary support to the school.

The Brian Wooster Memorial Award is presented by the School Council annually to a parent of the school who has:

- Demonstrated exemplary levels of voluntary community involvement at the school
- Demonstrated that the levels of service to the school have been due to a commitment to education and to the local community
- Promoted Mill Park Primary within the school and wider community
- Generated a strong sense of harmony and goodwill between all sectors of the school community

Mr Jonathan Martin was presented with the Brian Wooster Memorial Award at the Christmas Concert.



Jonathan has been a parent helper at the school since his first child started his primary school education at Mill Park Primary School. During this time Jonathan has been a great ambassador for the school. No job was ever too big or too small for Jonathan; he would volunteer his time and energy, and do it all with a smile and dry sense of humour. Jonathan has committed many hours supporting the school by:

- Being a member of School Council since 2015
- Being the Vice President of School Council
- Being an active member of the Education & Policy Subcommittee
- Attending many excursions as a parent helper
- Attending numerous school camps, over many years

- Introducing SmugMug to the school to enable more effective photo sharing with the community
- Introducing and facilitating the Run Club
- Actively supporting all school events
- Actively supporting all school sporting events
- Actively supporting school fundraising events, including cooking BBQs

Jonathan is a proud parent and a well-respected person in the Mill Park Primary School community. He conducts himself in a professional manner and has a wonderful rapport with staff, students and the broader community.

Jonathan generates a strong sense of harmony and goodwill between all areas of the school, and promotes Mill Park Primary School in a positive way. He is friendly, outgoing, approachable and an excellent role model for the school community. Jonathan exemplifies the school values of respect, integrity, compassion and excellence, and has a great community spirit. Jonathan has added great value to our school and particularly to our students.

Jonathan's attributes make him a most worthy recipient of the Brian Wooster Memorial Award for 2017.

It was wonderful to have Brian's wife Rhonda, son Stephen and daughter Kelly, at the Concert to present the Award. I thank Rhonda, Stephen and Kelly most sincerely for their ongoing support of the Brian Wooster Memorial Award and the school.

Well done on your excellent teamwork and for being such wonderful ambassadors for Mill Park Primary School.

2017 STUDENT LEADERS

Our student leaders play a vital role in the school and I would like to thank these wonderful young people for their work this year. Mr Cihan Ozbilgin and I had the pleasure of working closely with these students and we acknowledge their commitment to their respective leadership roles.

Thank you to our School Captains, Emma and Daniel who displayed excellent leadership and role modelling throughout the year. Their growth and self-confidence has been phenomenal, as was evident in their heart-warming speeches at Graduation.



The House Captains and Student Council Presidents also worked hard to add value to our school. Thank you to:

- Banksia House Captains: Isabel & Samah
- Blue Gum House Captains: Erin & Paige

- Grevillea House Captains: Aryan & Bindee
- Wattle House Captains: Holly & Sam
- Student Council Presidents: Katia & Mihaad

Our best wishes go with these students. We hope they will continue to offer service to their new schools. You're all stars!

STUDENT FREE DAY

The Department of Education and Training (DET) allows schools to conduct four Student Free Days per year. Please note the dates for Student Free Day for 2018:

- **Monday, 29th January**
- **Tuesday, 30th January**
- **Monday, 7th May**
- **Friday, 10th August**

TERM 1 2018

The 2018 school year will begin for Year 1 – 6 students on **Wednesday, 31st January**. Please make sure children arrive at school to begin their learning by **9.00am**.

Prep students will be attending by appointment to participate in the English Online testing program. They will begin on **Monday, 5th February (9.00am – 3.30pm)**.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Our first whole school event for 2018 will be the Family Picnic on **Friday, 23rd February**. More information will be provided early in the new year.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I wish each and every member of the Mill Park Primary School community a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, peaceful and safe New Year. I hope that you will all enjoy quality time with your loved ones over the Festive Season.

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding school community. Our School Council, together with the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) under the leadership of Mr Darren Symes and Mrs Aisha Latheef respectively, have provided great support this year. I sincerely thank both groups for their work and support.

I thank all our students for their ongoing enthusiasm, support, friendliness and for living our school values throughout the year. Mill Park Primary School is a fantastic school and everything we do is for our wonderful students. The teamwork and sense of goodwill that are evident between students within and across the year levels is exceptional.

The contributions made by our many parent volunteers are very much appreciated and I thank each and every one for their time, effort and interest in our school.

A very special thank you to our wonderful staff. We are fortunate to have such a talented, dedicated and caring group of professionals at our school. Their ongoing passion for teaching and commitment to Mill Park Primary School is outstanding.

Thank you to our fantastic Assistant Principal, Ms Carol Vidmar, for her untiring pursuit of excellence and continuous improvement in student learning and welfare.

Thank you to our extraordinary Leadership Team for their work and active support of the school's Strategic and Annual Implementation Plans.

Thank you also to our wonderful Business Manager Mrs Angela Falso. Angela's work ethic in the office is to be commended.

I believe the team spirit at our school continues to be very high. Although buildings, equipment or resources enrich our school's programs, it is the people working together with a common purpose that make Mill Park Primary a great school. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Enjoy a well-earned rest and quality time with your loved ones.



I leave you with a quote from author Brian Tracy, 'The greatest gift you can give to others is unconditional love and acceptance.'

Lu Alessi
Principal

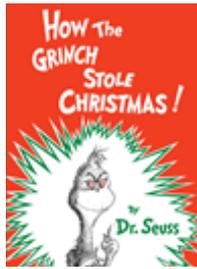
NEWS FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

What a wonderful year it has been! With the Christmas spirit all around us, let's remember to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas- spending quality time with our loved ones. To finish off the final newsletter for the year, let's reflect on how to best enjoy the Christmas spirit, with a little help from Dr Seuss (By Random House Children's (Huffington Post)).

We rely year round on Dr. Seuss's wisdom and reason,
Especially the Grinch for the holiday season.

Let's remember his story as Christmas draws near,
And perhaps we too will grow our hearts three sizes this year.

1. Don't be a Grinch!



"The Grinch hated Christmas! The whole Christmas season!" According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a Grinch is an "unpleasant person who spoils other people's fun or enjoyment". Today "grinch" is as much a part of our holiday vocabulary as Kris Kringle and eggnog. And without Dr. Seuss, it would never have existed!

2. Always be open to growing your heart during the holidays.



"But I think that the most likely reason of all, may have been that his heart was two sizes too small." Though Dr. Seuss suggests that the Grinch's head wasn't screwed on just right or that his shoes might have been too tight, we all know that the real reason he hated Christmas was that his heart was too small. No matter how busy and crazy the holiday season may feel, don't let a too-small heart ruin the holidays for you.

3. Friends can come from the most unlikely places.



"So he called his dog, Max. Then he took some red thread. And he tied a big horn on the top of his head." The best reindeer wasn't a reindeer at all; it was a four legged furry friend. Max is the Grinch's loyal and lovable sidekick and just like Max, sometimes we have to love and support those who need us, especially during the holidays.

4. Don't forget about the holiday trifecta: Noise! Feast! Sing!



"And then! Oh, the noise! Oh, the Noise! Noise! Noise! Noise!" In *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, Dr. Seuss boils the holidays down to three key things: noise, food and singing. These may have been the things that the Grinch hated the most about the holidays, but they are definitely the things we love the most!

5. The holidays are all about the importance of community.



"The last thing he took was the log for their fire!" To ruin Christmas, the Grinch knew he had to get **EVERYTHING**, every last speck from the Whos' houses. But guess what? They didn't care that everything was missing because they knew that material things are not the point of Christmas. Christmas may but come once a year but the essentials of the season, like coming together as community and giving back to those in need, stay with us all year long.

6. No presents doesn't mean no Christmas.



"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!" The Grinch is shocked when he discovers that Christmas has continued despite all his best efforts. And this message is just as important as it was in 1957, when the book was originally published. No presents doesn't mean no Christmas. (This isn't an excuse, however, to not get that gift your girlfriend has been hint-hinting all year about.

7. Good food and good company makes everything better.



“And he....he himself! The Grinch carved the roast beast!” In the end, the Grinch makes it up to the Whos by coming back with all their toys and holidays goods. And his final gesture of goodwill is to sit down to eat with them. No matter how grumpy or cranky we feel about the gift buying, the long lines, hours traveling home and nosey relatives, sitting down and having a delicious feast with your family is the best part of the holidays.

To all the Mill Park Primary School Community, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. A safe and healthy New Year filled with love and laughter! Please rest over the holidays and spend quality time with your families. I look forward to next year and hearing about all your holiday adventures!



Carol Vidmar
Assistant Principal

NEWS FROM MRS SPURR

At last Friday's assembly we announced the 2017 Superior Achievement Award winners. **Congratulations to all our recipients:**

Verbal Linguistic

Foundation	Ruhani
Year 1	Alex
Year 2	Brendan
Year 3	Ava
Year 4	Khavin
Year 5	Harrison
Year 6	Erin

Interpersonal

Foundation	Ava
Year 1	Olivia
Year 2	Lucas
Year 3	Luxman
Year 4	Vanessa
Year 5	Shruthika
Year 6	Emma

Academic Endeavour

Foundation	Megan
Year 1	Chloe
Year 2	Anita
Year 3	Marie
Year 4	Elissa
Year 5	Skyla
Year 6	Charli

Visual Spatial

Foundation	Scout
Year 1	Arsheia
Year 2	Yena
Year 3	Myah
Year 4	Eliesha
Year 5	Poppy
Year 6	Jamie

Musical Rhythmic

Foundation	Grace
Year 1	Shakira
Year 2	Lachlan
Year 3	Jenaan
Year 4	Kaitlyn
Year 5	Emily
Year 6	Batool

Logical Mathematical

Foundation	Jonathan
Year 1	Tiahna
Year 2	Krishna
Year 3	Nathan
Year 4	Sophia
Year 5	Andrew
Year 6	Andy

Intrapersonal

Foundation	Kade
Year 1	Gracie
Year 2	Sukriti
Year 3	Amber
Year 4	Amy
Year 5	Lisa
Year 6	Paige

Naturalist

Foundation	Isaak
Year 1	Tiffany
Year 2	Liliani
Year 3	Krishant
Year 4	Amani
Year 5	Levi
Year 6	Dave

Body Kinaesthetic

Foundation	Marko
Year 1	Aydin
Year 2	Chase
Year 3	Pamela
Year 4	Tyson
Year 5	Izaak
Year 6	Adam

LOTE

Foundation	Gabriella
Year 1	Fariq Hussain
Year 2	Leena
Year 3	Jaidyn
Year 4	Austin
Year 5	Tayaab
Year 6	Margarita

Thank you to the PFA for sponsoring the trophies and to Erin Daniele (First Aid Officer) for laminating the certificates.

I would like to wish the MPPS community a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2018! I look forward to seeing everyone back at school and hearing about the exciting holidays you all had.

I am going to be spending my break with my family and enjoying some time at the beach.



Kelly Spurr

Welfare Officer/Leading Teacher

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

We wish the school community a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and peaceful New Year filled with lots of love, happiness and good health.



The Administration Ladies

Angela Falso, Vivian Gulia, Alison Wylie and Jenny Panettieri

STUDENT BANKING

Congratulations to Muhammad W8. Please come to the office to collect your reward.

Tuesday, 5th December was the last banking day for 2017, Student Banking will resume in February 2018.

Vivian Gulia

Student Banking Coordinator

ABSENCE & LATENESS LETTERS

Absence and lateness letters have gone out to students this week. Please complete them and return them to the office as soon as possible. This is a Department of Education and Training policy that all student absences are accounted for.

Vivian Gulia

Student Attendance Coordinator

MEDICATIONS

Hi Everyone!

As it gets closer and closer to the end of the 2017 school I'd just like to remind all of our families who **will not be returning** to the school next year to come and collect any medications they may have left in the first aid room this year on **Friday 22nd December 2017**.

Enjoy your weekend!

Erin Daniele

First Aid Coordinator

CANTEEN NEWS

Please note that the canteen IS NOT OPEN ON FRIDAY therefore there will be NO lunch orders and/or over the counter sales.

Lee

Canteen Manager

COMPASS @ MPPS - REPORTING & ACCESS

Reports

The end of another year and another Reporting cycle are now upon us! Similar to Semester 1, student reports are available online for families to access from home via the Compass Parent Portal. To view your student's semester report, you simply go to your child's profile and click on the Reports tab.

Our Semester 2 Student Reports were made available from 3:30pm on Tuesday, December 19th 2017. Families that requested hardcopy reports along with all Year 6 Students, would have received their reports yesterday.

If you have any questions regarding your child's report, please see your Classroom Teacher prior to the end of the week.

Departing Families

As we approach the end of the year, we have a number of families preparing to leave MPPS as their last child has graduated or families are moving home or returning overseas. To all of these families, we say good luck, farewell and thank you for being part of our Mill Park PS Community.

Some families may be wondering: **how do we access Compass and our child's reports after we have left?**

Quite simply, after your child's final day at MPPS, your child and yourself will no longer have access to Compass @ MPPS.

I would recommend that you download and store copies of your child's 2017 reports from Compass on your home computer or device. For our Year 6 students, we have printed hardcopy reports for all of you for this semester only.

If you need copies of your child's reports from Compass in the future and you don't have a digital or hardcopy, we can assist via the Office. For families that have Year 6 Graduates leaving but have other children at MPPS, you will only lose access to the Graduate's Profile Page and Reports.

If they are any concerns or questions, please see me in Eucalypt 5.

In closing, I would encourage all MPPS families to jump online with Compass in 2018 if you haven't already. Many families are seeing the benefits of the system already and more elements will come online next year.

Cheers & Merry Christmas,

Dean Castle

Compass & Reporting Coordinator

SPORTS CORNER - What a Year!!!



2017 has definitely been an amazing year at Mill Park Primary School in Sport and Physical Education. We had so many talented students and teams represent our school in the Pool, Track and Field and various sport fields. I feel very blessed to be part of such a wonderful bunch of students, teachers and school community. Below are a few highlights:

2017 Volleyball District Runners Up

2017 Cricket District Premiers and Regional Finalists in T20 Blast Tournament

2017 Girls State Tee ball Champions

2017 Girls Hot Shots State Finalists (4th Place)

Swimming – Regional Finalists: Isabel (Backstroke), Harrison (Butterfly), 4x50m Medley Team (Kristian, , Harrison, Daniel)

Cross Country – State Finalist – Kiara

Athletics Regional Finalists – Kiara (Triple Jump), Kristian (800m), Dayna (Shot Put)

Basketball – Katia – advanced to the Regional Selections for the State Team trials

Running Club – Middle Years



I would like to personally thank Mr Jonathan Martin for taking time out of his busy schedule to bring his passion and expertise in running to our school every Wednesday morning in terms 3 and 4. In 2018 we will again be running the club for students in Years 4, 5 and 6 to start. If the momentum grows and we have more staff assisting, we may be able to open the club up to more year levels.

2018 Interschool Sport Teams

Last week the Interschool Sport Team selections were finalized and teams posted outside the Eucalypt and Hibiscus buildings. It is always a difficult process but we have always chosen students who have displayed the best skills during try-outs. The Bundoora District School Sport Association is very competitive and we finalize teams so that they have a chance at District, Divisional, Regional and State levels. Notices will go home this week for all the students who are members of the boy's Hot Shots (tennis), girl's Tee Ball, open Cricket and mixed Volleyball. The first games will start in week 2 of Term 1.

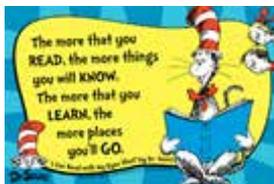
I wish everyone a safe and active school holiday!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Jason Gray

PE Teacher/Sports Coordinator

READING MATTERS

OVERDUE BOOKS



There is still 38 books outstanding. **PLEASE return your books TOMORROW, especially Year 6 and those who are not returning in 2018.** Please look in your book cases, Grandma's bookcase, under the bed, in the wardrobe, in your siblings wardrobe, in Mum's car and Dad's car and return these books as soon as possible so that others can enjoy them. Have a happy and safe holiday and I will see you all in the New Year ready to start reading for our Premier's Reading Challenge.

Happy reading

Sharon Turner

Library

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Parents and Friends Association meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Room.

These meetings are open to all parents and guardians, grandparents and interested members of the School Community.

Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 13th February 2018** in the Community Room. We hope to see you there!

Christine Gale

PFA Secretary



For all 3 year old and 4 year old enrolment enquires

Please contact: 9404 2623

