



Mortlake College Newsletter

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Term 1 Week 2 7th February, 2013

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to the 2012 school year! I hope you all had a great holiday period and, like the staff at the school, you are looking forward to the year ahead. We have had an excellent start to the school year with everyone settling into the routine of school very quickly. At our first assembly we took the opportunity to give a special welcome to our new Prep students as they begin their education and also our Year 12 students as they look forward to a successful final year at school. We also welcomed back a number of staff who were on leave at the end of last year and Mrs Courtney who returns after a period of family leave.

Most of our 2013 student leadership positions have been finalised and I would like to congratulate the following students on their appointments:

Senior Leadership team:

School Captains:	Sara Bolch and Robbie Orwin
Sports Captain:	Sarah Muir
Arts Captain:	Grace Wilson
Communications Captains:	Charmarelle McCarroll and Brad Tanner
Wellbeing Captain:	Stacey Shalders

Senior House Captains:

Endeavour House:	Green	Katrina McCosh	Tim O'Brien
Inspire House:	Blue	Hans Gubbins	Tayla Hobbs
Succeed House:	Yellow	Nikki Hustwayte	Bec Bloomfield

Years 5-7 Leadership team:

Sports Captain:	Kaitlyn Clifford
Arts Captain:	Phoebe Calvert
Communications Captain:	Robbie McGavin
Wellbeing Captain:	Keely Moore

Years 5-7 House Captains:

Endeavour House:	Green	Henni Roxburgh	Harry Quail
Inspire House:	Blue	Kismet McCarroll	Henry Kain
Succeed House	Yellow	Tiffany McLauchlan	Bobby Jamieson

Years 3-4 House Captains:

Endeavour House:	Green	Ruby Schuurung	Will McCosh
Inspire House:	Blue	Amy Hughes	Ollie Mahncke
Succeed House	Yellow	Shae DeFrancesco	Ned Quail

House Mentors:

The house mentors are as follows:

Endeavour House:	Years 8-12	Lyle Russell	Anne DeManser
	Years 5-7	Geoff DeManser	
Inspire House	Years 8-12	Jess Courtney	Anthea Good
	Years 5-7	Alison Coate	
Succeed House	Years 8-12	Linda Simkin	Nathan Jones
	Years 5-7	Olivia Campbell	

Under the new house system the house mentors at Years 5-7 and Years 8-12 will be responsible for all matters relating to the students in their house and will be the first point of contact for parents. The mentors will have contacted the parents of all students in their house by letter by the end of this week. The special assembly to induct student leaders and to introduce the Prep and Year 12 students will be held on Tuesday 26 February commencing at 9:15am in the BER building.

P-4 Class Captains:

At Monday's assembly our school captains, Sara and Robbie, announced the P-4 Class Captains for Term 1 and I would also like to congratulate the following students on being selected for this important role:

Year Prep:	Lani Gibson and Daniel Fowler
Year 1/2A:	Lily Burford and Tenyka Eden-Elms
Year 1/2B:	Ruby McDowell and Nelson Anders
Year 2/3	Sarah Gubbins and Paeturi Hapuku
Year Three/Four A:	Taine DeManser and Shae DeFrancesco
Year Three/Four B:	Amber Johnson and Todd MacDonald

Newsletter frequency and distribution:

Towards the end of last year I asked for feedback from parents about the newsletter in terms of frequency of publication and preferred method of distribution. The feedback I received was fairly evenly divided in terms of weekly or fortnightly publication so we will continue to publish the newsletter weekly this year. The preferred method of distribution among those who responded was very much in favour of email and I would like to introduce this unless I hear otherwise from individual families. Obviously, using email will be a much cheaper option for the school and we will also avoid the issue of newsletters not getting home!

For those families without access to email we will continue to provide a paper copy each week. We currently have email addresses for approximately 60% of our families, so if you have an email address and don't currently receive the newsletter via email could you please email the school and let us know that you are able to receive the newsletter via email.

Student Uniform:

It has been pleasing to see the great majority of students in full school uniform and as I have mentioned many times in the past all students have a responsibility to wear correct uniform each day. Some boys have already needed reminding that slipper type shoes are not an acceptable part of the uniform. If for some reason a student is unable to wear correct uniform they need to provide a note on that day to their class teacher or house mentor but it is important to realise that the note is only designed to give approval on a very short-term basis.

Attendance and Punctuality:

At the start of a new school year it is timely to remind students and families of the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. It is expected that students attend school every day unless of course they are ill or special circumstances prevent them attending on a particular day. If students miss school regularly or are often late it does have a significant impact on their learning. If your child is going to be absent please inform the school by telephone or text message preferably between 8am and 9am on the morning of the absence. If we haven't received notification of a child's absence, parents will be contacted between

9.30 and 10am. If you know in advance of an impending absence (eg. medical appointment) please let the office know prior to the day. VCE students must have a minimum 80% attendance in order to be considered for satisfactory completion of a unit.

Bus Travel:

All bus travellers are reminded of their responsibilities whilst using the school bus service. This includes remaining seated and behaving appropriately at all times. Students must also wear seatbelts where fitted. Of course, the utmost care must always be taken when students get on or off the buses and it is important that parents constantly reinforce these safety measures to their children. It is also important that parents inform the office staff as early as possible about any changes in bus travel as accurate records are essential in the case of an emergency.

Walking/riding to school:

All students who walk or ride bikes to school are reminded that it is essential they use the school crossing if they wish to cross Dunlop Street.

Parent Parking:

Parking at the end of the school day continues to be a matter of concern. Parents are asked not to park on the southern side of Hood Avenue at any time because of the obvious danger to children having to cross the road. I would also ask that parents do not park against the Activity Centre as we don't want students walking behind the cars parked in the designated parks. The safety of students is of utmost importance.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to our graduating VCE students from 2012. The fact that they are all in a position to achieve their goals of tertiary study or employment is a great reward for their hard work and commitment and reflects the strong culture of achievement that we are so proud of at Mortlake College. A median study score of 32 across all Units 3&4 studies meant we were among the top-performing government schools in the state so congratulations to all students who completed a VCE 3&4 study last year. Particular congratulations to our 2012 Dux, David Shalders, who was successful in gaining a place in Vet Science at Charles Sturt University. Congratulations also to Mitchell Wills who was the recipient of a Ballarat University scholarship.

Well done also to Sara Bolch and Charmarelle McCarroll who were chosen to audition for VCE Top Acts. This is a really significant achievement and is a result of the girls achieving outstanding results in the performance component of their VCE Drama exam. Sara and Grace Wilson are also to be congratulated for their wonderful performances in the Holiday Actors' production of 'Hairspray' which was held at Warrnambool's 'Lighthouse Theatre' in January.

The threat of bushfire and Code Red days:

Please read the sheet in this newsletter about the procedures we will follow on Code Red bushfire days. Our school has been identified as being at the highest bushfire risk and as such must close on days that are declared to be Code Red.

AEU Stop work action:

Next Thursday, February 14, members of the Australian Education Union will be involved in stop work action that is likely to have a significant impact upon the school. When I have confirmation of the details I will inform parents by note and text message.

Please remember that if you have concerns or queries about any aspect of your child's education to contact the school and arrange to meet with the class teacher, house mentor or myself.

Graeme Good

HOUSE SPORTS BBQ

On Friday the 8th February at the Swimming Sports there will be a BBQ. Sausages will be sold for \$2.00 at the pool. Go Inspire, Endeavour and Succeed

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

AGM MEETING – TO BE HELD AT THE MORTLAKE COLLEGE STAFF ROOM

18TH FEBRUARY @ 7PM

**Anyone who wishes to join the Parents Association are most welcome to attend.
The AGM will then be followed by a general meeting.**

*EQUESTRIAN TEAM NEWS

Due to falling Equestrian Team rider numbers, the Interschool Showjumping Championships will be in recess in 2013. There will be no event held this year.

Annette Janes

TECH TALK

The use of technology as a means of communication is no longer up for debate. Kids are using and will continue to use social media and tech devices to communicate and the type of devices they can use and the programs they can access online are increasing rapidly.

As parents and teachers it is our responsibility to make sure they are able to use this technology safely and responsibly. Each week in the newsletter I hope to give you some tips and resources to make this new aspect of parenting easier.

If you have any questions about the use of social media and how it affects your child, please contact me:

demanser.anne.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

WEEK 1: KNOW THE PLAYING FIELD

While most parents are aware of programs like Facebook and Twitter, many are surprised to learn just how many different programs and applications there are for online communication.

An important conversation that should be had in every home includes discussion of which applications kids are using to communicate with other people. It's surprising how many families (try) to ban Facebook, meanwhile their kids are using Snapchat or Tumblr or Skype.

For your information, here's a summary of some of the types of applications available for online chat and information exchange.

GAMES

Many online games have a social communication component. This includes games designed for quite young children, like Club Penguin and Mooshi Monsters. Older kids might play World of Warcraft or Second Life where players use avatars to create online communities. Some gaming consoles like Xbox also have online game play (and therefore chat) available.

SOCIAL MEDIA APPS

These include programs like Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Foursquare & Snapchat, along with education based apps like Edmodo or Super Clubs. These programs have varying levels of privacy and safety measures built in.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Information/creation sharing apps include things like Youtube, Flickr, Pinterest, Instagram and Tumblr. These sites are an awesome way of finding, creating and sharing information but they also have varying levels of privacy protection and very little restriction on the type of content posted and accessed.

INSTANT MESSAGING

Apps that allow text type messages or chat or video calls, eg Skype, Windows Live and Yahoo Messenger.

SPORT

If any parents wish to help out with duties at the House Swimming Sports on Friday 8th Feb. please contact me.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Please note that the years 5 and 6 will continue to participate in the secondary house sports competitions in 2013. These students will also have their P-6 sports days too for swimming and athletics. The results from the 3-6 sports will be used for further zone competitions.

In regards to the year 7-12 Mid West Complex interschool competitions, Year 5 and 6 students will have an opportunity to participate if required. However, they will not be able to compete in any subsequent competitions.

SPORTS COORDINATORS FOR 2013: Please direct all enquires to the relevant person.

P-6: Nigel Boyden

7-12: Nathan Jones

Other Important Dates:

- Mid West Complex Swimming Sports Wednesday 20th February. (Beaufort)
- Greater Western Region Swimming Finals Friday 15th March. (Warrnambool)

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Mr. Nathan Jones

Sports Coordinator 7-12

jones.nathan.t@edumail.vic.gov.au

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

Dear Parents,

Learning a musical instrument can be very beneficial for a child. Not only does it assist with their reading and mathematical skills but it can improve hand-eye co-ordination as well. That is why I offer music lessons for anyone at school.

For children aged five to eight (roughly Prep to Grade Three) I offer the following instruments: piano, recorder, guitar and violin. These are the easiest to learn at that age, and the latter two come in different sizes to accommodate small fingers. For older children, I also offer: flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, drums (if there is a drumset at school) and trombone.

I also offer lessons of different lengths. Twenty minute lessons are ideal for those who have trouble concentrating for long periods of time or who are young, and thirty minute lessons are for the older children or those who can sit still long enough!

If you are interested in having your child or children learn this year, please contact me on 55623975 (after school hours) or leave a message at the school, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Melanie Pocknall



Mathletics Awards and News.

Congratulations to the following students who have completed 1000 (or more) points on Mathletics last week earning a bronze certificate.



Name	Year level	Points	Award	House
Sophie Lehmann	4	1220	Bronze	Inspire
Taine De Manser	4	1000	Bronze	Succeed
Jack Lehmann	6	1250	Bronze	Inspire
Grace Thulborn	6	1045	Bronze	Succeed
Leah Johnson	6	2601	Bronze	Endeavour

Well done guys keep up the great work!

ACTIVE AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The Active After School Care activities have been finalized for Term 1. Dot Jenkins will be holding Multi Skill sessions on Wednesdays from 3.30 pm until 4.30pm. Sheridan McCarthy will be holding Hip Hop lessons on Thursday afternoons commencing at 3.45 and concluding at 4.45. Both sessions are for children from Prep to Grade 6. If you would like to enrol your child please collect and enrolment form from the General Office

RAFFLE TICKETS AT OFFICE

Congratulations to Tyler Fowler who is playing with the Victorian U/15 Cricket Team held in the State Championships in Perth this month.

If you would like to help out with fundraising there are raffle tickets available at the General Office

LOST

1 size 10 green woollen school jumper (brand new and named) 2 x school hats (brand new and named).

All items are named Shaye Worthington. If found please return to Shaye, return to General Office or call 0432 036 998.

CFA FIRE RATINGS – CODE RED

New school procedures for the bushfire season

The way schools in Victoria respond to bushfires has been revised.

New fire danger ratings and warnings have been introduced in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools – and children’s services – identified as being at highest bushfire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red. Our school has been identified as a school at highest bushfire risk.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to three days’ notice of a planned closure. We will contact you directly by letter and SMS with advice on planned closures and will confirm the decision to close by 12 noon the day before the planned closure.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child.

No staff will remain on site when the school is closed by the risk of fire.

We will also cancel any offsite activities (such as school camps and excursions) and out-of-school care if the activities are at risk. There may also be changes to school bus routes. Depending on routes, this may also occur on days when the school is not closed.

On high fire risk days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – on such days, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the safest option when a Code Red day is declared is to leave the night before, or early in the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for the threat of fire, we have completed the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s self-assessment of our emergency preparedness. We have also updated our emergency management plan and representatives of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have also visited our school to review our level of emergency preparedness.

What can parents do?

Make sure your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed. Make sure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, and by talking to your child’s teacher or any other member of the teaching staff.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you’re planning a holiday or short stay in the Bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family’s Bushfire Survival Plan.

You can access more information about school closures on the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development website – see www.education.vic.gov.au/bushfires.

For up-to-date information on this year’s fire season, visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the 24-hour Victorian Bushfires Information Line on 1800 240 667.



Education Maintenance Allowance in 2013

The changes to the EMA starting in 2013 include:

- EMA payments to parents increased from:
 - \$117.50 to \$200 for parents of eligible Prep students
 - \$117.50 to \$150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
 - \$235 to \$300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
 - \$235 to \$250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.
- School-based EMA payments will be discontinued (\$117.50 per primary school student; \$235.00 per secondary school student)

Changes to the EMA will be effective from the start of the 2013 school year.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA:

1. The student must be below the age of sixteen; and
2. The student must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2013 for the first instalment and 2 August 2013 for the second instalment; and
3. The claimant must on Eligibility Day, 29 January 2013 for the first instalment and 15 July 2013, for the second instalment:
 - be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
 - be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
 - be a foster parent.

If you feel that you are eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance and have not yet signed a claim form please call at the General Office to obtain the relevant documentation.



Need some help with **HEALTH** issues?

Headspace Warrnambool provides support, information and services for young people ages 12-25

210 Timor Street Warrnambool 3280 (across from the TAFE.) Telephone **1300 276 749**

They provide

- medical practice, assessment
- mental health assessment and support
- alcohol and drug counselling and support
- group and individual programs

www.headspace.org.au/southwestvictoria

Open 9.00am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday inclusive except for public holidays.

A GP is available onsite from Monday through to Friday. Please speak with reception staff regarding session hours & appointment times. Intake staff are available Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

The **Mortlake Community Health Service** has local allied health services that may be helpful, such as physiotherapy.

23 Boundary Rd, Mortlake

Telephone **5558 7000**

- District and Nurse Consultations
- Dietician
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatry

Lifeline 13 11 14

Kids Helpline 1800 551 800

Junior Netballers

Woorndoo Mortlake FNC invites all juniors wishing to play for the club this season to contact Jodie Welsh on 5599 2784 or 0427 99 2784 for more information with regards to training times and start dates.

All players, new and existing, are invited to join the 13 and under, 15 and Under, and 17 and Under sides.

All welcome.

Dance classes for 2013.

A reminder that enrolment day for the Jodie Welsh Academy of Dance will be held at Soldier's Memorial Hall on Monday 4 February between 3pm-5pm, with classes to start on Monday 11 February.

Beginners to advanced from the age of 3 years – adult welcome. Classes in jazz, tap, classical ballet and acrobats.

Phone Jodie on 0427 99 2784 for more information. New and past students most welcome.

HEALTH & WELLBEING Service Information

What is South West Child FIRST?

South West Child FIRST is a centralised intake service for families and children requiring family services.

The main function of Child FIRST is to undertake intake assessments of the needs of vulnerable children and families and to then target the appropriate Family Services to meet those needs.

Child FIRST (Family information, Referral and Support Team) has been established to provide a single entry point for accessing family services. South West Child FIRST is a partnership between 6 funded Family Services agencies and DHS Child Protection, focussing on helping families, and building their capacity. Referrals received and assessed as eligible are taken to a weekly allocation meeting and are prioritised by need.

Families & professionals can refer to **South West Child FIRST** on **1300 543 779**

Services that are offered include:

- Family Counselling
- Support & Advice with Parenting
- Group work
- Mediation & Case Management

The six agencies involved in South West Child FIRST are:

- Bethany
- Brophy Family and Youth services
- Gunditimara Aboriginal Cooperative
- Mpower
- Warrnambool City Council
- Wind-Mara Aboriginal Corporation

Terang Junior Basketball

Registration Form

Player registration form for 1st season 2013 to commence on Friday 1st March 2013. Names to be handed in to stadium or school administration by Friday 15th February 2013. Stadium Phone/Fax 55921747.

All players must be seven years or older by first round to register for participation.

Division 1 & 2 players \$6.00 weekly

Division 3 & 4 players \$4.00 weekly

Victorian Country Basketball Registration/Insurance \$30.50 per year for all new players and players due / payable by 2nd week of play

Name ***Date of Birth.....***

Name..... ***Date of Birth.....***

Name..... ***Date of Birth.....***

Contact Phone.....

Contact Email.....

Willing to coach yes/no

2013 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY		JULY	
Fri 1st	5 -12 House Swimming Trials	Mon 15th	Start of Term 3
Fri 8th	Sungold Field Days – Yr 3/4		
Mon 11th – Thurs 14th	P-4 Swimming		
Fri 15th	5 – 12 House Swimming Sports	AUGUST	
Mon 18th – Tues 19th	P-4 Swimming	Mon 9th – Fri 13th	Yr 10 Work Experience
Sun 17th – Tues 19th	Year 12 Deakin Camp		
Wed 20th	3-6 Swimming sports MWC Swimming Sports - Beaufort		
Tues 26th	Special Assembly – Student Leader, Preps, Year 12.	SEPTEMBER	
MARCH			
Mon 11th	Labour Day Holiday	9th – 13th	Yr 10 Work Experience
Wed 13th	School Photos	Fri 20th	End of Term 3
Fri 15th	G W R – Swimming (7-12)	OCTOBER	
Mon 18th	Parent Teacher Interviews – buses leave 1.00 pm	Mon 7th	Start of Term 4
Tues 19th	5 – 12 House Athletic Trials	Mon 14th	GWR Athletics - Ballarat
Thurs 21st	Year 11/12 Party Program Melbourne		
Tues 26th	MWC Triathlon – Lake Bolac (7-12)		
Thurs 28th	End of Term 1		
APRIL			
Mon 15th	Start of Term 2	NOVEMBER	
Wed 17th	House Athletics		
Thursday 18th	Tertiary Information Session – Deakin University		
MAY			
Wed 8th	MWC Athletics – Warrnambool (7-12)	DECEMBER	
Fri 24th	House Cross Country (7 – 12)	Wed 18th	Last day for all students
27th - 31st	Yr 10 Work experience		
JUNE			
Tues 11th	Barwon Prison Visit (VCE)		
Wed 19th	GWR Cross Country - Hamilton		
Thur 27	Junior Netball/ Football - Mortlake		
Fri 28th	End of Term 2		