The student voice of Mornington Park Primary School

March 2014

Tilly has been surfing since she was 4.

Riding the waves

Tilly Pitt has been on a surfboard since the age of 4 and over the summer holidays she volunteered to help out the Mornington Peninsula Disabled Surfers’ Association run their Let’s Go Surfing day at Point Leo.

Tilly’s dad Tony is a surf instructor with the association and they were both kept busy helping make sure the 41 surfers had a fantastic day!

The Disabled Surfers’ Association runs regular events and has surfing groups all over Australia and New Zealand.

• LET’S DO LUNCH: All students and staff enjoyed a hot lunch to commemorate the opening of the renovations and refurbishments at the school on February 26.

The school kitchen, staff and volunteers cooked and served 200 meals on the day.

Creative writing

By Silas Sweetnam

Once there was a magical pencil. It was in the hand of God himself. Then one day God dropped it and it fell on the desk of a boy named Silas. He saw it and thought someone had thrown it at him. He picked it up and drew a dog. As soon as he did, the page folded itself into a dog.

It then flashed and became a real dog. Silas used the pencil and wrote this story and guess what - that boy is me.

The magical pencil

By Chelsea Caporeale

Wednesday, February 26 was a very important day for our school. The State Education Minister, Martin Dixon MP came to officially open the renovations and improvements that had been undertaken at the school.

I helped to serve lunch for the students - we served 200 meals in total. I was going backwards and forwards from the kitchen taking three plates at a time.

After lunch, I waited with Mrs Dadds and the other school captains for the Minister to arrive. There were people in fancy costumes on stilts blowing bubbles and the Minister received a bouquet of flowers made out of balloons.

We all took him on a tour of the school and then had an assembly, with music from the school band and singing from the whole school, some speeches and the official cutting of the ribbon to open the improvements.

The renovations and improvements were undertaken as a result of the State Government’s School Improvement Program.

The Improvement Program has provided the school with a host of new facilities including an art room, radio station, television station, cinema room, 21st Century learning centre and a relocated staff centre.

The completion of this project closely follows the recently constructed BER building, as well as extensive roof repair and other maintenance works at the school.

Planning for the improvements began in July 2011 and construction began in early 2012.

Mornington Park Primary School Principal, Bev Dadds, said the new facilities were a part of an ongoing works program at the school.

“We are continually looking at ways to work with Government at all levels as well as our community partners to provide the best possible learning environment for our students,” she said. “These new facilities have gone a long way to helping us achieve that outcome.”

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We've really hit the ground running this year at MPPS - there's so much happening already! The school's radio station is up and broadcasting - 87.75FM on your radio dial - it's a narrowcast radio station, which means that it will broadcast around the school. Every student from Grades 3 - 6 will have an opportunity to make a radio program this year with broadcasts happening during every recess and lunchtime.

We're thrilled to also announce that the National Australia Bank have come on board to sponsor The Park Post - they'll be printing it for us each month which is wonderful - NAB has been a great supporter of MPPS for a long time now and we’re grateful for their continued assistance.

New contributing writers, lots of different stories and some great ideas are just some of the ways we're striving to keep the Park Post fresh and interesting for you - we welcome your contributions too, if you have a story or a photo, be sure to send it in!

March birthdays:

> 7th: Ethan Kelly, Hope Kelly, Georgia Wise
> 11th: Alfie Angelo
> 12th: Jordan Sweetnam, Silas Sweetnam, Lillian Davies
> 13th: Monique Laidlaw
> 14th: Thomas Kernick, Lachlan McGrath
> 18th: Chloe Caskey
> 19th: Tiah Reddecliffe
> 23rd: Aiden Bater
> 24th: Giacomo Balliro
> 25th: Jemma Kirkpatrick-Kennedy

The school's new narrowcast radio station is up and running, broadcasting on 87.75FM. Every recess and lunchtime, the radio is proving to be a big hit with the students. News and information about things happening at the school, lots of music and fun are the order of the day at MPPS FM.

Narrowcasting means that the aerial will only transmit in a small area around the school.

The aerial covers the school grounds and a perimeter of around 50 metres outside the school. Throughout the year, every student from Grades 3 to 6 will have an opportunity to spend time on air, learning to broadcast effectively and communicate strongly, as well as developing an understanding of the technical side of how radio works. There are also plans to run shows before and after school as well.

New school year off to a flyer

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New Preps settling in

Class five Steiner students have helped to make the transition to Primary School a little easier for the new Preps. There are 15 precious Preps and we met them on the second day of school. When the Preps met us they were smiling but they were also shy. As we got to know them we got to see the other side of their personalities. We'll make sure that they have an awesome time and feel safe at our school.

- Written by Class 5.

Left: Amelie and her Prep buddy Ayesha share a joke.

Concrete areas around the school have been given a facelift over recent weeks, giving students more play options at recess and lunchtime.

Steiner preps fly up and away

On the first day of school we get the whole Steiner Stream in the Library and the Preps soon to be Class Ones are on one side of the Rainbow Bridge with Johanna and Lizzy.

They each get a knitted bird to cross to Class One with.

They stand up one by one and we sing 'My Pigeon House' as they are guided across the bridge by Johanna to be met by our sweet new Class One teachers Joe and Amy.

This is a special and beautiful opportunity for the new Class Ones to feel ready for their new class at school.

By Max Broersen