Mornington Park Primary School

‘The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility - these three forces are the very nerve of education.’ Rudolf Steiner

Winter Festival
With lanterns bobbing through the dark as children led their parents through the school, we celebrated the Winter Solstice at the end of Term 2. Despite the cold nipping at our heels and the threat of a deluge from the heavens, the impressive turn-out of the school community sang, chatted and drank heart-warming soup to the serenading sounds of wandering drums.
The highlight of course was witnessing Class 6 harnessing fire in the mesmerising firestick ceremony; an event that demonstrated what a truly exceptional group of young people they are.

Main Lessons
Continuing with our astronomy main lesson this term, the class explored the movements of the moon, planets and stars in the night sky. We drew the phases of the moon, the pattern made by the planets and the cycles of the constellations to the north, south, east and west.

Recently, we moved into a main lesson on the world of mathematics, number patterns and algebra. This has consisted of exploring the mathematics involved in management of an apple orchard, including: averages, multiplication, long division and factors. Next week, we will continue the theme by exploring number patterns and the use of formulae to facilitate repetitious calculations.

Later in the term, we will turn our attentions to the physics of acoustics, optics and warmth and culture of ancient Egypt—a particularly rich topic.

Music Camp
Four of our students (Alfie, Kye, Alice and Lucas) attended the three-day music camp at the Briars in the first week of term. By all accounts, they received expert instruction from talented teachers and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to immerse themselves in the joys of music with other like-minded students.
Homework

Throughout the year, the class have been asked to maintain regular nightly reading of at least twenty minutes. They have also been encouraged to work on the times tables to 12 x 12, to enable greater ease with calculations as we explore increasingly complex mathematical concepts and processes.

This semester, they are being given an additional homework task per week to complement the classroom program and help them establish a homework routine at home. This will necessitate identifying a suitable time each week to complete the task, a clear and accessible work-space and resources for drawing and writing.

Although children may require some assistance from time to time, they should be encouraged to complete these tasks as independently as possible. They have also been asked to ensure that all pictures and diagrams are hand-drawn and all text is in their own words and hand-written.

Homework will typically be given out and discussed on Friday afternoons and presented to the class on the following Friday. If a student is having trouble understanding or completing the task, they have been asked to let the classroom teacher know as soon as possible, rather than leaving it too late in the week.

Important Dates

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<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Mornington SC Science Fair (Year 5s)</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; District Athletics</td>
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<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Book Fair</td>
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<td>10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Irmhild’s Parent Presentation</td>
<td>16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Last Day of Term 3</td>
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<td>11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Journey Through the Curriculum</td>
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