**Newsletter**  
**March 2016**

**Important Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>Free Dress Day-Bring an Easter Egg for the raffle</td>
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<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>Donations for Aboriginal Community</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Easter Hat Parade</td>
<td>9.00-9.45am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Harmony Day Activities</td>
<td>10.00-11.00am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Assembly / raffle draw</td>
<td>1.30-2.30</td>
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<td>Last Day for Term 1</td>
<td>Early Dismissal 2.30</td>
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<td>24th March</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
<td><strong>No pupils this day</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th April</td>
<td>Start of Term 2</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
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**Want to find out more about what your child is learning at school this year?**

Need practical tips about what you can do at home to help support your child's education?

Download SchoolMate today! SchoolMate provides you with an overview of what your child is learning at school, and suggests ways that you can get involved in your child's education.

Benefits of SchoolMate:

- Shows you what your children are learning in school in each subject in every year from Prep to Year 10 according to the Victorian AusVELS curriculum;
- Provides advice about you can do at home to help their child learn;
- Provides ideas for books and apps which you can download, borrow or buy which are related to their child's school work.

Developed by the Department for Education and Training, SchoolMate works on iPhone, iPad and Android phones and tablets and is available for free download in the App Store and Google Play.

Download SchoolMate today by visiting the [App Store](https://apps.apple.com) or [Google Play](https://play.google.com) and searching for SchoolMate.
Census Day

We made the 200!! So exciting on the 29th Feb to have completed the census with 200 enrolments!

Mentor Grant

We had the Parliamentary Secretary (Judith Graley) here to present us with the funding for the mentor program. We featured in the ‘NEWS’ last week. Our leadership students spoke confidently about what mentoring means to them and it was so well spoken that I had a request from the government for a copy to be read at the next parliamentary sitting.

We were extremely lucky to have been successful with our grant for a mentoring program. Kath and I met with the facilitators on Monday to devise a plan to move forward. We have enlisted the services of the Pinnacle group.

We are envisaging a yearlong program that initially works with the whole staff to set the criteria for mentees and mentors (to build ownership of and engagement with the program), identifies the mentors and mentees, and then matches and supports them as they evolve their working relationship across the course of the year.

The benefits will be wider than just those initially participating as it will seek to build wide support among the staff and to capture the learnings regarding what has worked and what has not worked in an evaluation report. This will enable refinements and support for the program to continue to evolve and grow indefinitely.

There will be an evaluation process and a strategy map developed to evolve the program to a wider group of participants for the following year, which would be guided and supported by the group of mentors and mentees from this year.

As such, the program will have a dual focus:

- To develop, imbed and support a mentoring program for young people
- To review, capture and share the key learnings from the program so that it can be run again in 2017 by staff and students involved in the 2016 program.

We are having our first Pupil Free day on the 24th of March to kick start the Mentoring project.

Notices Home

Just a reminder, a notice that requires a parent/carer to send a response will be in green and a notice that is for their information only will be in blue. We will need to make sure we educate the children around this too.

Harmony Day

How fabulous it is that our school celebrates inclusiveness and diversity in everything we do. Our school vision demonstrates it perfectly.

‘Through a sense of connectedness to peers, teachers and the community, Mornington Park Primary School provides a safe and harmonious learning environment which nurtures the whole child for success in a changing world.’

Through our School Wide Positive Behaviour Program, or as we call it ‘The Mornington Park Way’, our students are taught that all members of our school community have the right to feel safe, be included and accepted as they are.
MORNINGTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
Robertson Drive, Mornington Vic 3931
Phone: (03) 5975 4011    Fax: (03) 5975 9469

To celebrate our diversity we have a special event each year - 'Harmony Day' this is a specified day to ensure we acknowledge everyone’s differences while understanding we are one unified group. Mornington Park PS has now joined the Safe Schools Coalition Victoria. We are a school ‘dedicated to creating safer educational environments where every family can belong, every teacher can teach, and every student can learn.’

Support for our School

This is a good time to acknowledge the support we have for our school from many organisations.

1. **Mornington and Benton Woolworths**

   Are now donating fruit, bread, toiletries etc each week! The children are trying food in brekky club that they may not otherwise get to enjoy. We are really grateful to Woolworths for this help.

2. **Kinder**

   We have had a generous donation to assist with building a room for the Steiner Kinder. The room will have adequate toilet facilities for children of all ages as well as a kitchenette. Hopefully the building will be completed by the end of this term. At the moment the Kinder is using a space in the BER building. We have a lovely transition of many children from the Kinder to our school. I don’t manage the Kinder or hire staff we simply lease the building to the Kinder.

3. **Funding for Reading resources**

   The Mornington Rotary Club has funded nearly $2000 worth of PM books for our guided reading programs across the junior areas of our school. They have also kindly offered to continue their assistance. At our School Improvement meeting we decided we would ask for funding to purchase additional books for our Catch Up Literacy program. This program is facilitated by our ES staff and the books will be a wonderful resource for the program.

4. **Playground**

   Last year Max and a group of interested parents/families drew up plans for a more integrated, holistic playground designed to engage all the children in Prep-2. At the end of last year, the Navy worked hard to demolish the existing old equipment in the Junior playground and over the holidays teams of volunteers created a brilliant sand play component. The children absolutely adore playing in the new space. Over the next few weekends the next stage of the plan will be completed. Thanks Max and the team for the vision and for gaining the funds and enthusiasm to complete this project.

5. **Volunteers**

   We are fortunate to have a huge number of volunteers working across the school assisting with reading, taking small groups and mentoring individual children. The extra support is invaluable to our school. We are incredibly lucky to have the knowledge and skills of the volunteers being shared.

Before School Care

The After School Program and Vacation Care program is very successful therefore the SHERPA company has offered to run a Before School Program. At the moment it is only in the planning stage, however, we are looking forward to its commencement as we have had interest from some of our parents.
OP Shop

The Op Shop is providing us with additional funds for the school. Funds are needed to cover the cost of the school gym. It is a major fundraiser for the school so we really want it to continue. We are receiving many quality donations but we desperately need more volunteers. Please help! Can you spare an hour or two on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday? Please let the office know as soon as possible.

Attitudes to school survey

WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School survey is an annual survey for Years 5 to 12 students offered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students’ perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child’s experience at school.

Students in Year 5 and 6 will participate in this year’s survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 20th April to Friday 1st May. The survey only takes 20-30 minutes to complete and occurs during your child’s class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school at the end of July. Results are reported to parents through the Annual Report to the School Community.

Secondary School Information/Open Nights

For those of you wishing to visit a number of local secondary schools to consider your options for year 7 please be aware that many secondary schools advertise information nights, open nights and school tours through the local papers. Information can also be accessed through the secondary schools’ websites.

NAPLAN

Once again NAPLAN standardised testing will be administered in May. Information will be sent home early next term with exact dates and other important information.

Swimming

A small team went to the Pines pool last week for the District swimming sports. We are so proud of the way our students persevered on the day. They cheered each other on and represented our school in an exemplary way.
Report to the school community
Each year we are required to inform our parents about what the school is doing and achieving. The report was finished in time for School Council last night, however it is not quite ready for public distribution. When the report is ready, there are two ways of accessing it. We will have a copy at the office for you to read, there will be a copy on our website or if you would like a hard copy, ring the school office during school hours.

Indigenous op-shop
Many of you may be aware that the Jilkminggan community in the Northern Territory, are starting an op-shop to assist the Aboriginal people in the area. As a school we would like to assist in any way we can. If you have any material, sewing needles, patterns, scissors and any other craft type materials to donate, we will arrange a box in each building of the school as a collection point. Unfortunately, there is a short time frame with this. We need donations by next Wednesday 23rd March.

Have a wonderful Easter and a great break from the routine!!

Many thanks for a wonderful term everybody….

Bev

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KIDS, TEENS & ADULT BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE
LESSONS IN MORNINGTON
PAY AS YOU GO
WEDNESDAYS BEGINNER KIDS CLASS 5:30-6PM $10
WEDNESDAYS ADVANCED KIDS CLASS 5:50-6:20PM $10
WEDNESDAYS TEEN CLASS BEGINNERS & ADVANCED 5:30-6:30PM $20
FRIDAYS BEGINNERS CLASS 6-7PM $15
CALL DEARNE AT PENINSULA BALLROOM DANCE 0410509360