

WELCOME TO THE MOUNT MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 Wednesday 19th February 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 2 – [Principal's Report](#)

Page 3 – [Year 6 Student Reporter](#)

Page 4 – [PE Report & Sports Captain Report](#)

Page 5 – [Wellbeing](#)

Page 6 – [Digi Tech](#)

Page 7 – [Community News](#)

Keep an eye on
these dates for
any changes.

Any changes will
also be reflected
on Compass

Important Term Dates

February

26th – Grade 6 Jacket Car Wash
8.30am -9.15am & 2.30pm to 3.45pm

March

3rd – Year 6 Leadership Conference
6th – Whole School House Athletics Carnival
10th – Labour Day Holiday
11th – 14th – Dental Van Visit
11th Division Swimming (selected students only)
14th FOS Colour Run @ 3pm
17th – Year 3-6 House Cross Country
25TH – District Futsal Day 1

31st – SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

April

1st – District Futsal Day 2
4th – Last Day of Term finish at 2.30

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is keeping cool on these hot days! As you will have seen, we came very close to needing to relocate today. I will always work to update parents of the need to relocate as soon as I am made aware that we need to do so. It can be as late as 5:00PM the day before and in some cases, the call may be made the morning of a day of relocation. Please keep an eye out for communication via Compass on days where the weather is forecast to be significantly hot and windy.

NAPLAN: Our Grade 3 and 5 students will be participating in the upcoming NAPLAN testing program this March. Students across Australia participate in this standardised testing that gives schools and governments valuable data is student achievement. NAPLAN is now completed online with the only exception being the grade 3 Writing test. If you have any questions regarding NAPLAN, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself.

Reach Out Parent Session: Don't forget that we are extending an invitation to parents and the wider school community to attend a parent session on parent-child relationships and communication as well as supporting the positive mental health of our children. This session is being held at Macedon PS from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Information is below.

Bike Education: In two weeks time the Grade 4s will begin their Bike Education program with Mr. Sonogan and the grade 4 teachers. We have decided to move Bike Ed back to Term One to free up Term Four, especially the last few weeks which can be very busy indeed. Bike Ed will consist of four sessions during school time with Mr Sonogan and two bike rides: the Macedon bike ride and the Williamstown bike ride. For these two rides we do need parent support so please have a look at the dates below to see if you can come along!

Macedon Bike Ride: Friday 28th March
Williamstown Bike Ride: Thursday 3rd April

Grade 6 Car Wash: Today saw our Grade 6s washing cars as a fundraising event for their Grade 6 jackets and Leadership badges. This was a true example of our school leaders taking the initiative to help with the expenses that come with the grade 6 final year here at MMPS. It was amazing to see so many people coming through the car wash and supporting our Grade 6s. A big thank you to Daniel Rybak for lending us a hose and to Adam Mizzi for supplying all of the car wash equipment via Auto Barn in Sunbury. We could not have helped our Grade 6s have such a successful day without your help.

House Athletics: We have our House Athletics carnival on next Thursday the 6th of March down at Dixon Field. Information, consent and payment information will be coming out through Compass very soon so please look out for that notification/email. If you are able to volunteer to help on the day that would be amazing, you can let us know via the Compass event page for House Athletics.

School Council Nominations: You will have seen via Compass yesterday that we have a number of vacancies on our School Council. We have 3 parent positions vacant this year. We are accepting nominations for these positions up until 4:00PM Tuesday the 4th of March.

FOS Meeting: We will be holding our first Friends of the School meeting next Monday the 3rd of March in our school library. We will be establishing roles and responsibilities at this meeting so please come along if you are interested in joining. FOS plays a vital role in helping fundraise for the school, but it also creates opportunity to be involved in many of the school events that bring us all together.

Many thanks, Joe.

Year 6 School Reporters

Interview with the wellbeing leaders

The past two weeks we have had our wellbeing club run in the wellbeing room and here is their insight on how they think it is going:

“Well, it's definitely good even though we didn't have many people last time”

That is a direct quote from the wellbeing leaders.

It will be great to see how the group develops and we're sure that more people will join as the year goes on.

Rob Mitchell MP

Last week we also had Rob Mitchell MP come to our school and we have an interview with the school captains to hear what they say:

Mirra “He was kind and was interested in the flags”

Raphy “Also, he was very chatty, and he seemed very interested in the school”

Rob Mitchell came to visit the school to see progress on the upgrade to the school's flags. Funding has also been given to the school to update the gardens around the front of the school, underneath the flags.

Cycling club

Our school is making a cycling club so we can compete in the interschool cycling competitions and do fun rides on Tuesdays to keep up our fitness and have fun while doing so.

District swimming

On Tuesday we had our district swimming competition for all those who got a first in a 50-meter stroke. It is held in Sunbury Aquatic and Leisure centre with all the other schools that have kids entering in district swimming.

There was schools such as Braemar, Macedon, Holy Cross and Gisborne.



Jasper



Flora

PE Report



Tuesday 25th saw MMPS students head down to Sunbury Aquatic Centre for the District Swimming. We had a squad of 21, who all swam their hearts out! The students all came along excitedly and ready to compete, accompanied with amazing weather!

Well done to all those who competed, especially those who were out of their comfort zones and still gave it their all! A big thank you to Vicki and Mr Sonogan, as the day ran smoothly with their help and assistance.

Next week, Thursday 6th March, is our whole school Athletics Carnival at Dixon Field. The foundation and grades 1 and 2 students will participate in running races and novelty events on the inside of the running track with Mrs Krajewski and Mrs Barclay. While the grade 3-6's will complete a variety of field and track events in their allocated areas.

These days cannot go ahead without our amazing helpers. If you're available to assist with time keeping/place marshal on the day, could you please let myself know or respond via COMPASS. I would be truly grateful (choccies & treats to entice 😊)! I will send out the days program via COMPASS soon.

Jess Stone

Sports Captain Report

On **Tuesday the 25th of February** was District Swimming. All the schools in the district came to the Subury swimming pool to compete. Most of the grade 5/6s came with us and some of the 3/4s. We bused there with Macedon Primary School. When we arrived, we all set ourselves up and then went to do some practice laps. And then we got ready for battle. The day started off with freestyle and then made its way into backstroke then to breaststroke and butterfly as the last individual event. Then we had a break after the last butterfly event to get ready for the relays. There were two relays, a freestyles relay and a medley relay. The freestyles were first. In the freestyle relay we had a team for most age groups. The medley finished the day. In the medley relay we had one team. The under 12 girls. Our relays did really well along with all the other individual events. It was really hot and sunny outside which made it even more fun to get in the water to cool off. After all the events had finished we all got changed and headed back to the bus with Macedon. And came back to school at 2:45. We all had so much fun. Our school got a few ribbons in individual events that we are super proud of. Our school did amazing! The events we competed in were all 50 metres because it is a fifty-metre pool. Thank you so much to Mrs Stone for organising all our events ,and the day, we would also like to thank the parents that came along and helped. Also we would like to say thank you to Vicky and Mr Sonogan for coming along to supervise us in and out of the water. Overall the day was a blast! 😊

On **Friday the 21th of February** our school was lucky enough to have an Auskick clinic come to our school. It was for the Preps to 1s,2s,3s. There were two men who were there teaching the kids. They were handing out little plush footys to everyone. They were doing competitions to see who could kick the farthest and handballing ones as well. We are very grateful to have them come to our school and help the younger classes work on their footy skills. It was also great to see people who probably wouldn't usually go to these sorts of things getting involved and having a great time. They also played fun games showing them how to use the ball and handball and kick. There were also little obstacles that they had to go through at the start. This was on the oval for most of lunch. They also did target practice and even Mr Flynn had a try. The feedback we got from a few students that participated is that they loved it, and it was super fun. They also commented that they had learned a lot from the clinic. The workers were super enthusiastic and really helped everyone learn at least one thing. They also were very inclusive and kind so everyone got a shot. Also, they gave the students in 4 5 and s\6s a chance to win a prize as well to include them. Thanks so much to Mrs. Stone for organising it and all and also the people from the clinic for making it enjoyable for us all. And we hope they can come back and do it again for us to enjoy.

By Pearl and Chloe



Join fellow parents and Clinical Psychologist, Professor Sophie Havighurst for an in-depth discussion about how to support positive mental health in our children.

As program specialist for Tuning into Kids, an evidence based, emotion-focused group parenting program, Professor Havighurst will help improve communication with your children, develop stronger relationships and guide optimal responses to their emotions.

We will begin the evening with a light supper where you'll have the opportunity to meet other parents and share your stories.

WHEN: Tuesday, 4th March

TIME: 6.30PM-8.00PM.

WHERE: Macedon Primary School

Childcare is available at school during the event. Children will be supervised by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Youth Services Team, who will be showing a movie (Inside Out).

For catering and childcare purposes please RSVP using the link below if you can attend.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeeBg_cgQHQ1MUtM1X_l2xo36P0KVrplywpNZ666jhky8-9YA/viewform?usp=header

No more tears – Parenting tips for an easier drop off.

<https://www.triplep-parenting.net.au/au/articles-and-news/post/no-more-tears-parenting-tips-for-easier-drop-offs/>

Brooke McInnes

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader & Inclusion Coordinator

Marrung Lead

Mount Macedon Primary School

(Mon, Wed, Thurs; Tues fortnightly)

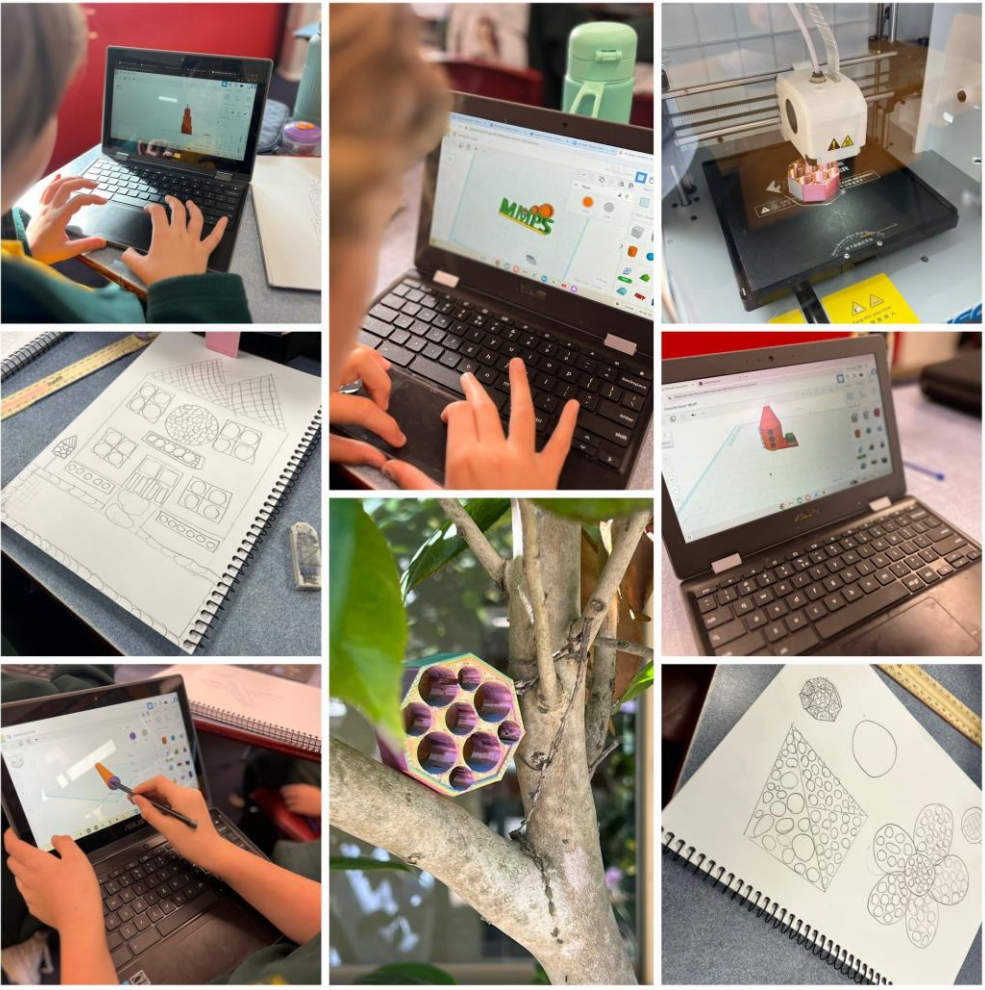
Our senior and middle classes embarked on an exciting new project aimed at making a positive impact on our environment—starting right here at MMPS. While we might not be saving *the entire world* just yet, we are taking an important step in supporting the tiny creatures that play a big role in our ecosystem: insects.

During our discussions, we explored the importance of pollinators, particularly bees, and how they help sustain plant life by pollinating flowers. This process is crucial for growing the fruits, vegetables, and plants that both humans and animals rely on for food. The students were fascinated to learn how even small changes, like creating spaces for insects to thrive, can have a lasting effect on biodiversity.

With this in mind, students have begun designing their own **3D-printed Insect Hotels**—special shelters that will provide a safe haven for bees, beetles, and other beneficial insects in our school grounds. Using digital technology, they are creating unique and functional designs that will be printed and placed around the school to support our local pollinators.

We can't wait to see our students' creativity come to life and watch as these insect-friendly spaces help encourage biodiversity in our school environment. Stay tuned for updates as our Insect Hotels take shape.

You can see their progress, and a quick Hotel we made and printed below:
-Mr. Garcia



Macedon Forest Restoration

Loddon Mallee Region, January 2025

Making your forest visit more beautiful.

What's happening

DEECA is restoring native forest to the sites of former pine plantations at Mount Macedon. In the early stages of regeneration, a fence will protect thousands of newly planted trees from deer and wallabies.

Visitors are asked to support the project by respecting signs and fenced off areas allowing vegetation the best chance to establish.

Once established, the regenerated forest will be added to Macedon Regional Park, providing even more recreational opportunities for visitors to enjoy.

Where?

The former pine plantations that are being revegetated are on the south-east side of Mount Macedon (see map). The total revegetation area is 94 hectares. Mount Macedon is 72 km up the Calder Highway from Melbourne's CBD.

Why?

Climate Change Benefits

The regenerating forest will absorb substantial amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Community benefits

Large regeneration efforts such as this contribute to resilience against climate impacts, promote sustainable land use, and foster a healthier environment for future generations. Visitors to Mount Macedon will be able to enjoy the beautiful natural spaces this regeneration will create.

Native Wildlife and other environmental benefits

The tall damp forests of Mount Macedon provide a small but important stepping stone connecting wildlife populations in eastern tall forests to those in the Wombat forest. Long-term (80+ years) this increase in



native forest area will support more resilient wildlife and plant populations. Additionally, the forest will provide a significant increase in habitat for native wildlife, support soil health, and improve water quality by reducing runoff and erosion.

Will it increase bushfire risk?

The bushfire risk will eventually reach a similar level to that of the mature pine forest that was present prior to 2019 when harvesting of the pines commenced, but it will take many decades to reach this level.

What's happening on ground

We need your assistance to ensure the forest regeneration is successful. Activity on these sites will include:

1. Control of weeds (e.g. Wilding Pines, poplars, Scotch thistle, etc)

Macedon Forest Restoration

2. Browsing impact monitoring – 10 sites will each have three plots to determine which browsing animals are most damaging to revegetation efforts.
3. Fencing of former pine blocks to exclude browsing animals (see fencing sub-heading for more about the fence).
4. Planting of native species will commence Autumn 2025 and continue for the next 4 years (see planting sub-section for more information).

Browsing Impact plots

From early September 2024, Browsing Impact plots have been installed at ten sites across the regeneration area. The different fence styles of the plots give us an indication of the severity of vegetation browsing and identify which group of animals are likely to have the greatest impact on our forest regeneration.

Planting

Planting of native vegetation will be undertaken in stages spanning 3-5 years:

- Planting of trees will commence in Autumn - Winter 2025.

- Understorey infill planting will commence Autumn 2026.
- Infill planting of trees and understorey will continue for another two years

Fences

Fences will be in place for the first 3-5 years of regeneration to protect plantings from deer, goats, and wallabies. Erection of the fences is scheduled for Summer 2024/2025. This short-term solution will facilitate the most efficient and rapid establishment of the forest. Once plants are sufficiently established to withstand browsing, the fences will be removed.

The fences will feature self-closing pedestrian and cycle access gates, allowing visitors to walk through the regenerating forest. Fences will be approximately 1.5 meters high and constructed of Ringlock wire to ensure effective animal exclusion. Regular maintenance will be conducted to keep the fences functioning as protection for regenerating plants.



ffm.vic.gov.au

For further information call: DEECA Customer Contact Centre: 136 186 or e-mail: customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action



OFFICIAL

Mount Macedon - Forest Restoration Area

Loddon Mallee Region



Please be advised that due the Labour Day public holiday, all Beleza retail stores will be closed on Monday 10th of March. All stores will resume regular trading hours from Tuesday 11th of March.

BUSINESS MANAGERS VICTORIA
BUSINESS LEADERS IN STATE SCHOOLS

VICTORIA Department of Education

ES RELIEF PROGRAM 2025

Supporting Victorian State Schools with Qualified Relief Staff

EDUCATION SUPPORT FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION RELIEF PROGRAM 2025
Supporting Victorian State Schools with Qualified Relief Staff

The Education Support Finance & Administration Relief Program is an initiative run through the Department of Education and Business Managers Victoria, aimed at providing assistance and support within the education sector, particularly for office staff in administration and finance roles. This program offers opportunities for individuals to receive training and gain practical experience in educational office settings.

By the program's conclusion, participants will have the training required to provide relief support in school administrative systems, enabling them to assist at short notice in schools.

The program trains participants for school office relief roles, equipping them with essential skills to assist schools on a short-term, flexible basis.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- ✔ Introduction to CASE21, Finance & Student Invoicing
- ✔ Managing Receipts, Creditor & Debtor Payments
- ✔ Student Administration Skills
- ✔ Tax Invoicing
- ✔ NEW for 2025: Student First Aid Training & Certification

ELIGIBILITY

- ✔ Individuals interested in working Education Support staff in administration and finance
- ✔ Have not previously worked in a school office
- ✔ Are not currently employed by a school
- ✔ Are not seeking permanent work. This program is specifically for individuals interested in working in casual relief roles within a school office
- ✔ Ideally have a referral from an employee currently working within a Victorian school

Program Requirements

- Attend all program components, including online and face-to-face training, graduation day, and complete 70 hours of volunteer work experience.
- Undergo an interview and complete a PC competency test before acceptance.
- Gain experience in various school settings during work placement, covering all aspects of school administration and finance.
- Be available for short-term employment at short notice.
- Commit to 12 months of relief work following program completion.

Program Details

- Four training centres will be on offer. (Locations for 2025 to be advised). Each centre will accommodate a maximum of 30 participants.
- The program will aim to run from May 2025 to September 2025, incorporating face-to-face learning, online modules, and 70 volunteer work placement hours plus graduation day.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) are now open. See below for EOI link. EOI closes 3rd March 2025.

Join the ES Relief Program 2025 and take your first step toward a rewarding career in education!

Submit Your Interest

To express your interest in the program, complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) on our website. For more details or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to welcoming you to our program!

JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED!!

MRTA WINTER COMP 2025

applications due: 2nd of March

email to: treasurer@macedontennisclub.com.au

For more information please contact Eriko & Junko

Eriko: 0428 003 746
Junko: 0425 757 298

Acknowledgement of Country

Wominjeka, Welcome.

At Mount Macedon Primary School, we would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land, where our school stands. The Wurundjeri people believe Bunjil the eagle, created the people, the animals, the land and the waterways. We are grateful that they cared for this land, and we commit to continuing its care and to learn and grow here with our kir-rip, friends. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge their ongoing connection to biik, Country. Nagujin, thank you.

KNOW YOUR COUNTRY
CLOSING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP ABOUT FIRST NATIONS HISTORY AND CULTURE STARTS AT SCHOOL

KNOWYOURCOUNTRY.COM.AU

