Welcome to the Mount Macedon Primary School Newsletter

Issue 7 Tuesday 17th March 2026

Table of Contents

Principal's Report
Student Reporter
Wellbeing
Community News
Significant Dates

FOS Events

Easter Raffle Thursday April 2nd

Mothers Day Event Friday May 8th

Meetings

Wednesday 6th May

Important Term Dates

Term 1

March

18 & 19th Bike Ed – Yr 4 students ONLY
23rd House Cross Country
24th Macedon Bike Ride
26th Yr 6 Young Leaders Conference
30th SCHOOL PHOTOS

April

1st Williamstown Bike Ride
2nd LAST DAY OF TERM – FISHISH @ 2.30
EASTER RAFFLE PRIZES DRAWN

Term 2

April

23rd District Cross Country (selected students)
24th Brainstorm Production Incursion
27th -1st May Whole School Swimming Program

May

5th May District AFL (selected students)
15th District Soccer (selected students)
29th PUPIL FREE DAY

June

3rd – 5th Yr 5&6 students City Camp
8th KINGS B'DAY PUPLIC HOLIDAY
12th District Netball (selected students)
17th Lantern Parade @ 6pm

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

NAPLAN: I am so proud of our grade 3 and 5 students for completing the NAPLAN program ahead of schedule. Here at MMPS we approach NAPLAN as just another test that helps schools, states and governments make decisions. Our students complete a number of practice tests to familiarise themselves with the online portals but apart from that we work hard to maintain a 'business as usual' approach that helps to keep student anxiety around NAPLAN as low as we can. A big thank you to all parents of students who completed NAPLAN and to our teachers for facilitating the tests.

Harmony Week Breakfast: I was absolutely blown away by the wonderful selection of breakfast foods on display at the Harmony Week Breakfast on Monday morning. It was so lovely to work with Jax and Sadie, our Wellbeing Leaders, on preparations for the breakfast and then to see so many parents and students attend was amazing as well. I am already looking forward to next year's!

Bike Ed and upcoming Bike Rides: Our grade 4 students have been working hard with Mr Sonogan to complete their biked for this year. All of our school sessions have been completed and will be finalised with our two bike rides: our Macedon bike ride and our Williamstown bike ride. We will be heading off next Tuesday with students from grades 4, 5 and 6 on our Macedon bike ride that takes us down the hill to Tony Clarke Reserve, through the township of Macedon and then back up to school. If you are available to come along with us that would be amazing! Please reach out to the school so we can help you with the details.

We are heading off for the Williamstown bike ride on Wednesday the 1st of April and do require a number of parent helpers. ***If you will be coming along with us and have a trailer that can transport bikes, can you please let the school know so we can plan accordingly.***

Grade 6 Leadership Conference: Next week Brooke and I are heading down to the National Young Leader's Day conference with our grade 6 students. The event showcases a number of high-profile speakers who talk about the importance of leadership and the many different ways we can demonstrate leadership. Students are inspired to come back to MMPS with ideas of things they can implement here as our student leaders. I cannot wait to share the day with our grade 6 students, it is always an absolute blast!

FOS Helpers and Volunteers: Just a reminder that if you would like to sign up to help for an event or activity here at MMPS you will need to complete the *Volunteer Induction Procedure* available via QR code at the front office or below. One of the important parts of this is providing your *Working With Children Check* information to us before volunteering. This record makes sure we are keeping all of our events as child safe as we can.

I hope everyone is going ok following our spell of hectic weather, I know many of you have been significantly affected by it.

Many thank, Joe.

Student Reporter

Hello everybody,

House Athletics.

On the 13th of March, we went down to Dixon Field for our annual house Athletics Day. On this great day, we compete in different types of sports such as discus, shot-put, running and long jump. Winners in these sports will jump into the grand district athletics, in which we compete against different schools. Athletics is the most exciting event of the year, with friendly competition amongst fellow classmates.

I am really proud of all the students who are off heading to district athletics, I hope you continue to go on and on with your sports. Well done! And if you aren't going to district athletics, I also give appreciation to you, for giving it your best even if you aren't the fastest runner in your class. I love the fact you still try and compete even if the odds aren't your way!

NAPLAN

NAPLAN occurred from 11th - 17th of March. NAPLAN is a crucial test organised by the government as a way of tracking a child's growth. Our school is *really* impressed by the way our students coped with NAPLAN, because some technical errors occurred over the entire system. Our students were very mature over these times, and are lucky that they could complete their assessment properly.

For the Writing test, the students wrote magnificent stories about a magical rock (Grade 5's, on computer) and (Grade 3's, on paper). During the Numeracy test, the grade 5's were completely focused on multiplication and sorting things into groups, which the grade 5's are very fond of, as Mr Sonogan and Mrs Wenczel and Mrs Bloomfield have done a magnificent job teaching the classes how to sort and multiply. Whilst the grade 3's were more focused on division, subtraction and place value, which all the grade 3's are GREAT at! Mrs Probert wrote encouraging messages on the board.

Drill

On the 19th of March, we're having another fire drill. Our annual drill schedule helps our teachers refine what to do in an emergency where we have to evacuate. We do drills to educate and prepare our students and teachers for the worst case scenario.

We do drills for our safety and to show students how to remain calm and in a single file line while exiting the school. When the students reach the desired location, the teachers will mark the role to make sure no one is lost or hurt. After that we will call emergency services and inform parents about the situation.

Harmony Week Breakfast

Thank you to all the family and friends who came to the Harmony Day Breakfast. It was amazing to see all those people there and to be able to share all the wonderful and delicious food that your culture represents! It is activities like this that really brings our communities together, and to see so many people wanting to be a part of that really makes us happy. Thank you again for coming, and if you weren't able to make it we hope we see you next time! *Written by Sadie Bonnet.*

Yash Sharma, *MMPS School Reporter.*

THIS WEEK AT MMPS by student photographer Cato

LUNCHBOX IDEAS - MACEDON RANGES HEALTH

Healthy Lunchboxes: Supporting Energy, Learning and Focus

Providing balanced food throughout the school day helps children maintain energy, concentration, and mood. A simple approach is to include a mix of whole foods from the core food groups and to limit highly processed, sugary, or caffeinated options.

Recess

Recess is a quick refuel. Aim for something light and easy to eat.

Good options include:

- Fresh fruit (whole or cut up)
- Vegetable sticks (carrot, cucumber, capsicum) with hummus or dip
- Yoghurts
- Cheese and crackers

Lunch

Lunch should be more substantial to carry students through the afternoon.

Aim to include:

- A wholegrain base (sandwich, wrap, roll, pasta, rice, crackers)
- A protein source (lean meats, chicken, tuna, egg, cheese, legumes)
- Salad or vegetables
- Fruit

This combination of wholegrains + protein + healthy fats can help us all feel fuller and supports steady concentration in class.

Drinks at School

Water should be the main drink at school. It is the best option for hydration and concentration.

What about kombucha and flavoured soda water?

- Kombucha and flavoured soda waters can be a better alternative to soft drinks if they have no added sugar or caffeine
- However, they can still encourage a preference for sweet or fizzy drinks.

Recommendation:

Water (and plain milk at lunch) are the preferred drinks for primary-aged children. Kombucha and sweetened or flavoured fizzy drinks are best kept as occasional home treats rather than everyday school drinks.

A Final Note

Balance and variety are key. Lunchboxes don't need to be perfect every day. Focusing on mostly whole foods and water will help support children's growth, learning and wellbeing.

MUNISE BOZKURT, ACCREDITED PRACTICING DIETITIAN , MACEDON RANGES HEALTH

Foundation/Grade 1

The foundation students and Grade 1's in the foundation room have been learning or revising the basic greetings of good morning and hello. Instructional language such as please sit, stand, listen, watch, be quiet has been used regularly. The children are learning to talk about themselves in Japanese, stating their name and age. Counting and recognising the numbers to ten in Japanese have been a prerequisite to using their age in a sentence.

Songs and games are used consistently to reinforce what they are learning.

Grade 1/2 and 2/3

Children in grades 1,2, and 3 have been studying folk tales, exploring how Japanese Folk Tales work, what sorts of qualities the main character always has, the fact that there is always a conflict or problem to be resolved, and moral lessons to be learnt. After watching several Japanese Folk Tales, they are now applying what they have learnt to the creation of their very own Japanese Folk Tales.

Grade 4/5 and 5/6

In the senior grades students have learnt to use the present, future, and past tense of verbs in polite (masu) form by changing the ending from 'masu' to 'mashita.' They have applied this to activities they did, places they went, interesting things they saw, and food they ate on the summer holidays.

Following on from this there has been an applied focus on revising the forty-six basic hiragana letters and their sounds. From the many numerous ways of revising the hiragana letters, the games of "Hiragana Swat" and "Hiragana Leap" have been amongst the favourites. As they are revising the letter sounds they are working through a hiragana booklet to practise the writing of the letters and how they appear in words. This assists them with building greater understanding of decoding from Japanese into English letters and helps improve Japanese reading skills.

	wa	ra	ya	ma	ha	na	ta	sa	ka	a
a	わ	ら	や	ま	は	な	た	さ	か	あ
i		り		み	ひ	に	ち	し	き	い
u	ん	る	ゆ	む	ふ	ぬ	つ	す	く	う
e		れ		め	へ	ね	て	せ	け	え
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rows

columns

AN IB PYP EDUCATION

MT MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL 1858 · Care · Create · Collaborate ·

CONCEPTS IN THE PYP

THE POWER OF CONCEPTUAL & TRANSDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

PYP learning is organised around big ideas (concepts) that transfer across subjects and real-life contexts.
Why this matters:

- Students understand why learning matters, not just what to remember.
- Knowledge is connected across subjects like literacy, numeracy, science, arts, and humanities.
- Learning mirrors the real world, where problems are not separated into subjects. Students develop deeper understanding and long-term retention.

This approach builds flexible thinkers who can apply learning in new and unfamiliar situations.

GLOBAL THINKING

DEVELOPING GLOBAL-MINDED LEARNERS

A PYP education prepares students to thrive in a connected, multicultural world.
Students:

- Explore global issues such as sustainability, equity, and responsibility
- Learn to appreciate multiple perspectives and cultures
- Develop empathy, respect, and intercultural understanding
- Learn an additional language and value linguistic diversity
- Act as responsible global citizens through meaningful action

STUDENT THINKING

CREATIVITY & INQUIRY IN THE PYP

After completing the PYP here at MMPS, students are:

- Confident inquirers who ask thoughtful questions
- Creative problem-solvers who generate original ideas
- Independent learners who reflect on and own their learning
- Collaborators who work effectively with others
- Resilient thinkers who embrace challenge and uncertainty

Creativity is fostered through open-ended tasks, authentic problems, and opportunities to think, design, create, and innovate.

OUR GOAL

THE PYP OUTCOME

A PYP education at MMPS nurtures:

- Curious minds
- Strong conceptual understanding
- Global awareness
- Creativity and inquiry skills for life

ib Primary Years Programme

For More Information: www.mtmacedonps.vic.edu.au/international-baccalaureate

PE Update

As we approach the end of our whole-school sporting events, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the incredible support within our school community and the positive attitude our students consistently display when trying new skills.

A big thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help our events run so smoothly. We also greatly appreciate the many parents, family members, and friends who came along to cheer on our students. Taking a moment to step back on the day and take in the atmosphere, it was fantastic to see such encouragement, enthusiasm, and school spirit on display.

Information regarding District Athletics will be announced later in the year, as District Athletics will take place in Term 3.

Our final school sporting event will be Cross Country on Monday for our grade 3 to 6 students. Students will be bused to Dixon Field, where they will run the same course used for District Cross Country. A map of the course is available on COMPASS via the event notification.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of our sporting programs.

Kind Regards,

Jess Stone (P.E)

msp photography
www.msp.com.au

PHOTO DAY IS COMING ....

Monday
30th March 2026

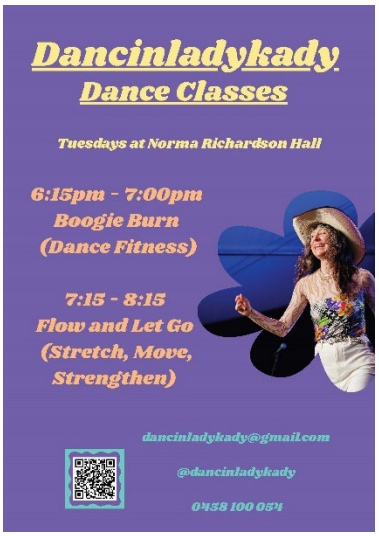
MSP Photography will be visiting our school on the above day.

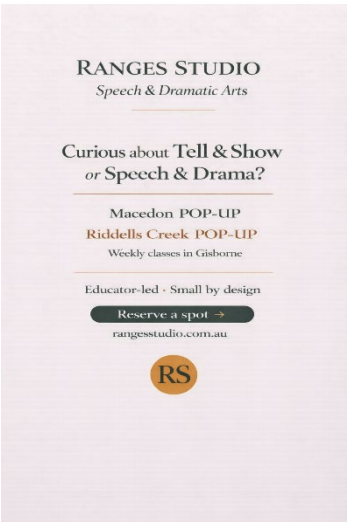
- Order via the Compass App.
- Read all the relevant instructions carefully before making your package choice.
- Sibling photos can be ordered online via the Compass Portal. Please note that sibling photo orders must be placed by Midnight on Sunday 29th March 2026.
- The portal does not have a cut off ordering date, however once the job has gone to the lab for printing, any late orders will incur a later order charge.

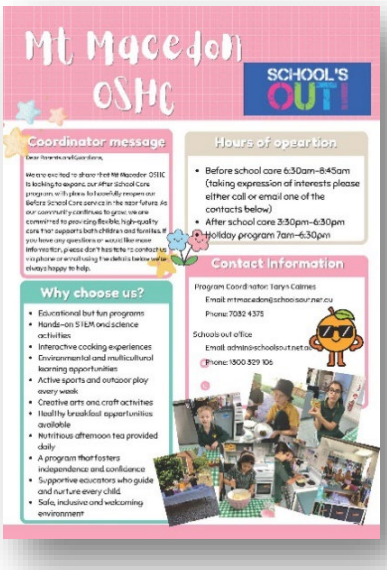
LIFE IS EASIER WITH MSP

Please call MSP on 5333 5577
if you have any questions.

Community News







Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

26th January – Australia Day

17th February - Lunar New Year (Chinese & Vietnamese)

2nd March – Holi Festival

25th April - ANZAC Day

May – Australians Biggest Morning Tea

11-15th August – Bullying No Way, National Week of Action

August – Daffodil Day

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Key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dates

21st March – National Close the Gap Day

26th May – National Sorry Day
27th May – 3rd June – Reconciliation Week

June – Mabo Day

July – NAIDOC Week

August – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
August – International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples

September (First Wednesday) – Indigenous Literacy Day

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2026 Health & Wellbeing Events Calendar

February	
All Feb	FebFast
All Feb	REDFEB Heart Research Month
10 Feb	Safer Internet Day
15-20 Feb	Random Acts of Kindness Week
15 Feb	International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day
24 Feb	National Family Drug Support Day

Acknowledgement of Country

written by 2024 student leaders Lenny, Ava, Cienna & Henry

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.