Welcome to the Mount Macedon Primary School Newsletter

Issue 4 Tuesday 24th February 2026

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Thursday March 12th

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Meetings

Wednesday 24th Feb

Wednesday 11th March

Important Term Dates

Term 1

February
NO PREPS ON WEDNESDAYS

March
3rd District Girls Futsal (selected students)
Bike Ed – Yr 4 students ONLY
4th District Boys Futsal (selected students)
Bike Ed – Yr 4 students ONLY

5th District Swimming (selected students)
9th LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
12th FOS Colour Run/Holi Festival
11-12th NAPLAN Literacy
13th House Athletics
16-17th NAPLAN Numeracy
17th Parents 'Resilience Project' Session
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

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone managed to survive the deluge yesterday and keep dry. I cannot remember a period of such dramatic and changing weather, we relocated last Tuesday because of fire danger and were almost swept down the hill due to rain this Tuesday. It has been great having a full week of school, uninterrupted by relocations though and I would like to again thank everyone for helping us through the dangerous fire period.

School Council Elections: The nomination period for our school council elections closed yesterday afternoon with s having received the exact number of nominees as vacant positions. This means that we do not have to conduct a ballot and all who nominated have been successful in gaining a position on our school council. I would like to welcome Geordie Taylor and Estelle Fitzpatrick to our school council as new members and I would like to congratulate Michael Woods, Day Ryan and Brooke Briody as returning members. Our 2026 school council consists of Michael Woods, Dan Ryan, Brooke Briody, Liz Halloran, Pia Shea, Estelle Fitzpatrick, Geordie Taylor, Geni Krajewski and myself.

District Swimming: We have a new date Thursday 5th of March) for the upcoming District Swimming competition. The decision was made to postpone the event due to the weather yesterday. Good luck to all of our competitors! *The updated event information is up on Compass if your child is attending you will need to provide consent again for the updated date*.

FOS 2026: Our parent group, Friends of the School (FOS) met for the first time this year to develop a calendar of events and get stuck into working on some upcoming events such as our annual Colour Run and our Easter Raffle. It was great to meet with Dan Ryan (FOS President) , Sandi Gardener, Katya Woods, Estelle Fitzpatrick and Rowena Glenister to look at all of the fantastic events that FOS works so hard to put on.

FOS WhatsApp Groups: One big task that FOS have prioritised is the reformation of our School FOS WhatsApp groups. Each classroom should have a FOS group where we can coordinate events and share school-based information. From year to year these groups shift and change and in the very near future you will be given a new QR code to join this year's group ***(It may be the one you are already a part of OR you may need to leave your old group and join a new one)***.

Colour Run: FOS have been hard at work setting up for our annual Colour Run. We will be holding it on the afternoon of Thursday the 12th of March from 2:45pm in our school grounds. The event commemorates Holi Festival and students take time in class exploring the festival and the cultural and religious reasons for it. Students will need to bring a white T-Shirt to change into on the day. We will also be holding a bake sale to be run at the same time. A big thank you to our grade 1/2 classroom for donating supplies for the bake sale and helping out on the day.

Grade 4 Bike Education: Bike Education begins for our Grade 4 students next week! Mr Sonogan will be taking our grade 4s for two sessions next week (Monday and Tuesday mornings) so students will need to have their bikes checked over using the checklist sent home and then bring them in on Monday morning. Bikes that do not meet these requirements will not be able to be used in the program. Please jump onto Compass and make sure you have provided permission for your child to undertake Bike Ed; there is no cost to this program.

Parent Information Session: Tomorrow morning (Thursday 26th of February) I will be running a parent-helper information session in our school library. In this session we will be covering aspects of volunteering her at school including Child-Safety requirements, OH&S requirements and how to provide the best reading support if reading with children.

I hope everyone has a great week,

Joe.

Student Reporter

Hello and welcome to the second newsletter of the year. Today, I will be writing about the Swimming Carnival, upcoming events and leadership positions, so without further ado, let's get into it.

Swimming carnival

On Friday the 13th, the whole school went to a traditional event, the swimming carnival in Woodend. The Swimming Carnival is a fan favourite and is one of my favourite things about school. The Swimming Carnival splits all the classes into 2 groups.

The grade prep - 2/3's do super fun novelty events, in which they compete in fun races, including run from one end of the pool to the other with a cone on your head, freestyle from one end of the pool to the other and so much more! I remember as a prep how much fun I had at the Swimming Carnival. All winners are awarded a ribbon for their excellent work. And even if you didn't place in any race, you still get a super cool participation ribbon for awesome effort!

Meanwhile, the grade 4/5 and 5/6's competes in the big pool, in which they do freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. You can choose what stroke you do and how far you want to swim. 25m or 50m. If you place 1st in 50m, you will go on and compete for the school in districts. And if you place in 50m, you compete in the relay races, where you compete as a team over 200m. If you aren't a confident swimmer and you don't compete in any race, you can do the novelty races, in which they compete in super fun races, which include the same style of races as the younger students, although racing against their peers.

Upcoming events

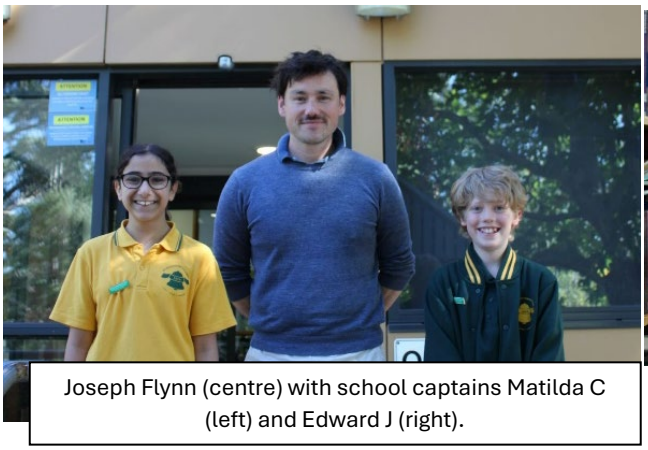
On the 9th of March we have Labour Day, which results in no school, so don't drop your child off on the 9th, or else there won't be much to do.

On the 24th of March, we have the Mount Macedon bike ride for grades 4, 5 and 6. The bike ride is a lot of fun and is a great way to learn how to ride a bike safely in a town you know of. The bike ride is a fun way to learn about riding a bike!

The Grade 4's will be doing bike-ED, where they learn how to safely ride their bike, preparing them for the bike rides. They learn what to do at stop signs, how to ride safely and how to manoeuvre your bike in expert ways. The teacher, Mr Sonogan, is a great example of how the example should be set while riding a bike.

School photographer Cato and School reporter Yash (pic taken by Billy)

Student Reporter cont. Leadership Positions



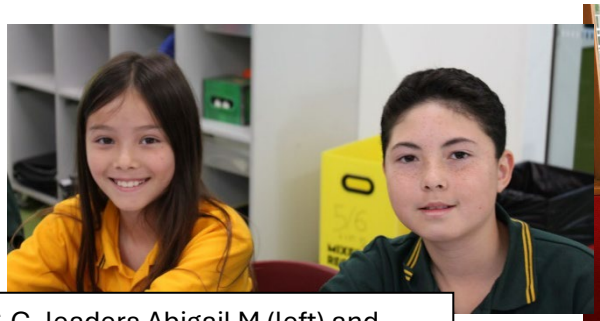
Joseph Flynn (centre) with school captains Matilda C (left) and Edward J (right).

Library monitors Bay & Valentina

Grounds keepers Henry W (pictured), Jack W and Finn B

Sports captains Liam K (far left), Callan G (left), William M (centre), Billy H (right) and Victoria W (far right)

Buddy leaders Tom H (left) and Ashton S (right)



J.S.C. leaders Abigail M (left) and

I.T. leader Raffy Garcia

Wellbeing leaders Jax J (left) and Sadie B (right).

Groundskeeper Jack W

Relocation

We have had more relocations in 4 weeks than we have in the past three years,

dryness is the biggest culprit, wind and heat are also significant factors of all of the high fire danger, resulting in high relocation days. We thank everyone for being wonderful at relocating and following our plan. The forecast for the next week shows minimal chance of relocation and that should be it for the year. We are sorry for any inconveniences.

Fire Drill

The fire plan states that Term 1 and Term 4 drills need to be fire related. Last Wednesday we held a code green drill that required an evacuation to the oval, different colours result in different outcomes. It is important to know, acknowledge and understand the meanings of the different colours, these colours include

Green; evacuation to the oval, occurs when there is a fire inside the building. Students must stay calm & follow instructions. If your child is out of their main classroom, they are advised to head into the nearest teacher on all possible occasions.

. Code pink; head into the 4/5 classroom.

. Code yellow; head into Stanley Park.

. Orange; head lockdown

. Code blue; Level 1, Head into your classroom. Level 2, Head into safest unlocked building (Not toilets) and listen to teachers for more instructions.

We hold drills every term for the safety of your children, these are for your own good.

Colour Run

On Thursday the 12th of March here at school, from 2:45pm.

Minecraft: From Players to Creators (No In-App Purchases Required!)
After a lot of students spent the last few weeks (demanding) *asking nicely* for another Minecraft Education session this term, we happily obliged. But this time, we flipped the script: instead of just playing the game, they became the creators!

Mario 64, Polygons, and UV Mapping
Before jumping onto the servers, we talked about **low-poly 3D modeling**. I may have spent a *little* too much time talking about my childhood love of *Super Mario 64*, but it was educational, I promise! It helped the kids understand how video game characters are actually built out of basic geometric shapes called **polygons**.

We also tackled **UV mapping**—the technical process of taking a flat, 2D image and wrapping it around a 3D model (like wrapping paper on a box) to give a character its face, clothes, and colors.

Building Themselves in Blockbench
Next, the students got hands-on with **Blockbench**, an online 3D modeling tool used by actual game developers. They designed and built their very own custom Minecraft characters from scratch, ready to be imported into the game for everyone to see.

- **The Learning Behind the Fun:** While it looks like pure entertainment, the kids were actually hard at work developing crucial STEM skills:**Spatial Reasoning:** Manipulating objects within a digital 3D space across X, Y, and Z axes.
- **Computational Thinking:** Understanding how 3D modeling software communicates with the game engine.
- **Creative Engineering:** Planning a design and figuring out how to build it block-by-block.

The best part? It resulted in completely original characters. Forget in-app purchases or paid DLC (Downloadable Content)—why would our students buy a character when they now have the skills to build themselves?

As many a young person may have forgotten the website for the program we used, the kind find it here to explore more at home: https://www.blockbench.net/

Mr Garcia

PE Report

Congratulations to all students for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and resilience at our House School Swimming Carnival last Friday. Braving the elements and a refreshing pool, students supported one another and gave their best effort throughout the day.

A huge thank you to our amazing parent volunteers. These events simply couldn't go ahead without your time and support, and it is truly appreciated. Thank you also to our wonderful staff for their fantastic help and encouragement on the day.

Finally, congratulations to our 18-member squad who will be representing our school at the district swimming carnival next Tuesday. We wish you all the best!

A friendly reminder that the Macedon PS and Mt Macedon PS Auskick and Superkick Program is starting next Wednesday the 25th February.

Details are as follows:

Where: Macedon PS School Oval

When: Every Wednesday 3:45pm-4:45pm for 5 sessions

Start: 25th February

Who: All students welcome from Foundation – Grade 6. Mixed and All Girls groups available.

Cost: $55 (every participant that signs up for this program will get $55 discount code to go towards Community Auskick Registration in Term 2!).

Links: Auskick Superkick

Thank you,

Jess Stone

Easter raffle!

When?

Last assembly of term 1!

Where?

The hall!

Who?

The whole school!

What will happen?

The teachers and parents will make up little Easter prizes and names of the students get pulled out of a hat at the final assembly.

Easing into adolescence: resources for families

Free resources for families of adolescents aged 10 to 14 years.

The Department of Education has launched an Easing into adolescence webpage for families of students aged 10 to 14 (Grade 5 to Year 8).

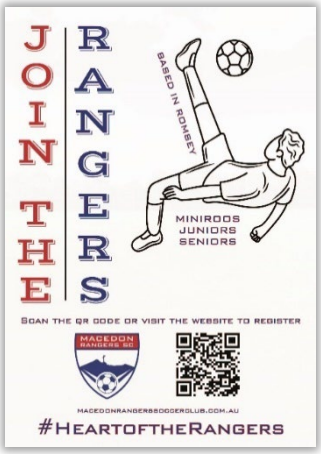
The webpage has information and strategies you can use to help ease your child into adolescence and secondary school. These include:

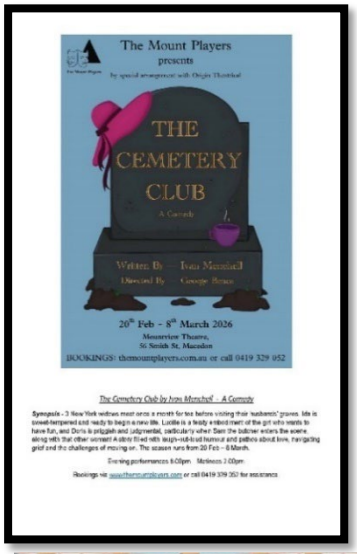
- a guide to emotion coaching. Staff from The University of Melbourne's Tuning in to Teens Kids program developed the guidance.
- how to support your adolescent with their studies and more generally. Parenting expert and clinical psychologist Andrew Fuller helped develop this resource.

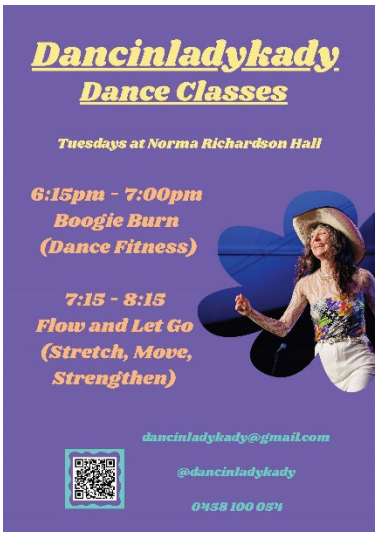
Subtitles for videos by The University of Melbourne on the webpage are available in 10 languages. You can select your preferred language on the translations page.

For questions about these resources, contact the Strategic Partnerships, Transitions and Student Voice team. You can email them at Secondary.School.Transition@education.vic.gov.au.

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.