

WELCOME TO THE MOUNT MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 33 Tuesday 28th October 2025

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FOS Events

Important Term Dates

Term 4

October

31st World Teachers Day

Junior School Council's - Mental Health Awareness Day

District Orienteering

November

3rd – PUPIL FREE DAY

4th – Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

5th - Christmas Foodbank donations begins

5th 7th & 14th SEA Program

11th SkowKo Japanese Incursion

Remembrance Day

17th – 19th Year 4, 5 & 6 Cottage by the Sea Camp

24th Aaron Moar Guitar Concert

18th & 25th 2026 Foundation Orientation Session

December

2nd 2026 Foundation Orientation Session

5th PUPIL FREE DAY

9th Statewide Orientation Session

12th Kids Rule The School

15th Year 6 Graduation

17th Picnic at Hanging Rock

18th End of Year Assembly & Morning Tea

19th LAST DAY OF TERM finish @ 1.30

Hello everyone!

Pupil Free Day Next Monday 3rd Nov: For our upcoming Pupil Free Day on Monday the 3rd of November all staff have taken the opportunity to explore professional Learning in an area they are interested in and that aligns with our strategic plans and goals. These pupil free days are vital in giving staff and schools the time to focus on things such as professional development and strategic planning. Last Friday's pupil free day allowed staff to develop our Program of Inquiry for 2026 and I can't wait to share with you some of the amazing Inquiry units the students will be exploring next year!

2026 Numbers: We are currently working through our student numbers for 2026 and have decided upon the following class structure:

**Foundation/One
One/Two
Two/Three
Four/Five
Five/Six**

As we are a small school, student numbers dictate our classroom structures more than larger schools. If you know that your child/ren will not be returning to MMPS next year, could you please let the school know. It will be enormously beneficial in our current preparations for next year. *Your child will spend time in their 2026 class on the morning of Tuesday the 9th of December.*

Grade 5/6 Man Cave Program: Today we had Man Cave come and work with our grade 5 and 6 boys. It was great to see our senior boys reflecting on their transition to secondary school and to the senior level of primary school. The boys will report back in next week's newsletter but going on the smiles and laughter I heard from the Hall today I feel it was a really positive experience!

District Orienteering: Good luck to our Grades 3-6 students who are heading down to Tony Clarke Reserve on Friday to compete in District Orienteering. The day is named in honour of John Ewel's as he was a huge orienteering enthusiast.

Sex Education Australia: It was great to see parents engage with our Sex Education Australia information session on Monday night. Jenny from SEA outlined the content of the programs and how they are delivered in our classrooms and was able to answer questions from our parent community. The SEA classroom sessions begin next week so if you have a child in grades 3-6 can you please make sure you have jumped onto Compass and provided consent for the program.

FOS Trivia Night: A huge thank you to FOS and Dan Ryan and Rowena Glenister in particular for putting on a fantastic Trivia Night last Friday. It was amazing to see so many parents come out all dressed up and enjoying spending a night out. A big congratulations to Team 'Toto' for taking home the big prize on the night!

World Teacher's Day: Friday the 31st of October is *World Teacher's Day*, and I cannot be prouder of the teaching staff we have here at MMPS. They are the most caring and passionate group of professionals who go above and beyond for our students here at MMPS. I hope you all have a wonderful *World Teacher's Day*!

I hope everyone gets to enjoy some extended time at home this coming weekend!

Thanks, Joe.

Riddle:

How can $8+8=4$?

Answer from last week: post office

Grade 5/6 Man Cave

On Wednesday the 29th of October, the year 5, and 6 boys, will be participating in something called Man Cave. To put it simply, it is about looking after each other and treating people the way that you want to be treated. The year 6 girls did something similar earlier this year. It is one session and will be about 1 to 2 hours before returning to a regular school day.

Grade 5/6 Pollination Problem Incursion

On the 30th of October, the 5/6's are having some people come to talk about the pollination problem. It's a big problem and that's why we booked these people to come in. Later in the term we are going on an excursion on the pollination problem.

Orienteering

On Friday, the 31st of October years 3 and above, will be going to district orienteering at the Tony Clarke oval. If you don't know, orienteering is basically looking for different flags/posts on, and around the oval, which are stamped on a map that the organisers give to you. There are different levels and maps, ranging in difficulty, from a 1 to about a 20. For now, let's just hope for good weather, and have fun.

Teachers' day

On the 31st of October it is going to be world teachers' day so it's a good chance to thank a teacher for all the hard work they do throughout the year.

Mental health activity

Also, on the 31st of October the JSC captains have organised some mental health activities for our wellbeing. It is a rotation of 10 activities that groups will rotate through. Those groups will be led by a year 6 student.

Pupil free day

We'd like to say that we hope everyone had an amazing pupil free day, it won't be your last for the year (sorry parents).

WHAT'S ON?

GRADE 2/3 CLASS UPDATE

READING

In Reading we are exploring the difference between reading fluently and reading with expression when reading aloud. We have been practising this through shared reading, 'The Tricky Sleepover' and through paired reading.

MATH

In Maths we have been learning to solve vertical multiplication equations involving one and two-digit numbers. We are now using our understanding of multiplication to help us solve division equations.

WRITING

In Writing we have been practising to summarise information from non-fiction texts through researching information about the First Fleet, as part of our new Inquiry unit.

WELLBEING

As part of our Respectful Relationships/Wellbeing sessions, our class recently discussed the difference between 'safe' and 'unsafe' secrets.

SAFE secrets being about things that will make someone happy and don't last long (ie. Making a parent a surprise breakfast in bed or keeping a birthday present a secret from its intended recipient).

UNSAFE secrets being about someone being hurt or doing the wrong thing (ie. Secrets that make someone unsafe, feel uncomfortable and/or involve doing the wrong thing). We linked these discussions to 'NO, GO, TELL' (say NO, GO away from the situation, TELL a trusted adult). These lessons are taught to empower our students, to ensure they feel/are kept safe.



Our Inquiry unit for this term is:

An inquiry into the discoveries, explorations and migrations of humankind;

Central idea:

Discovery and exploration leads to opportunities and new understandings

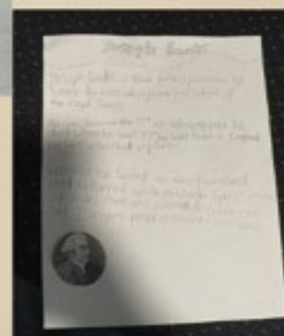
Lines of Inquiry:

- *the historical and personal reasons for exploration
- *how explorations have taken place over time
- *the consequences of exploration

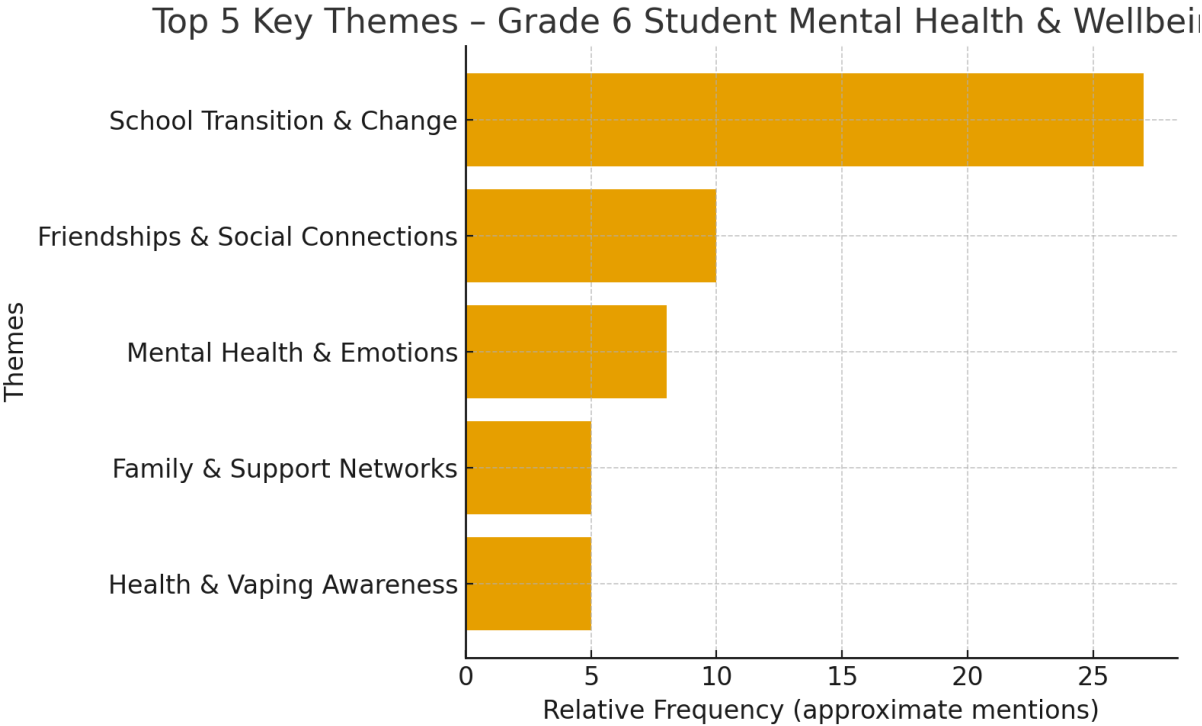
We have been looking at the early explorers of Australia and how old and where indigenous artefacts are that have been found all over Australia, demonstrating how much of Australia the indigenous people had explored before European settlement.

This week we are looking at the discovery of new flora and fauna in Australia.

We have done whole class research, independent research, read news articles and watched episodes of BTN to gather our information.



Earlier this year we sent out a link to a survey from Macedon Ranges Health as they wanted local data on the experiences and needs of Macedon Ranges Grade 6 students and their families. Thank you to those that completed the survey. Macedon Ranges Health have shared a quick snapshot of the key themes that emerged from the responses. Overall, the main areas of focus are **anxiety around transitioning to secondary school, peer and social connections, and general wellbeing and mental health.**



The Man Cave – Foundations Workshop

On Wednesday the grade 5 & 6 boys took part in *The Foundations Workshop* with The Man Cave. This engaging program supports boys in building emotional literacy, empathy, and trust, while strengthening group connection and fostering a culture of kindness that extends beyond the classroom. As part of MMPS’s Tier 2 wellbeing supports — following the girls’ program earlier in the year — the workshop helps students prepare for the transition to secondary school as well as focusing on confidence, resilience, positive relationships, emotional wellbeing and challenging gender stereotypes. The 3 wonderful facilitators worked with students in a fun & interactive way, providing practical strategies and tools to help navigate this important stage.

Junior School Council & Mental Health Awareness Month

The Junior School Council leaders Eleanor, Clem and I have been busy planning a fun whole-school activity for this Friday to recognise **Mental Health Awareness Month**. Students will come together in ‘community groups’ (students from across all year levels), with each group supported by a staff member. They’ll rotate through a series of engaging activities focused on understanding and supporting our mental health through **creativity, teamwork, movement, communication, and fun**. It’s a wonderful opportunity for students to connect across grades, work together, and celebrate the importance of looking after our minds as well as our bodies. These activities are designed to encourage connection, positivity, and wellbeing across our school community.

Japanese Day

Japanese Day is fast approaching. Students are reminded to come dressed in anything to do with an aspect of Japanese Culture which allows for a wide range of options from Samurai & Ninja to Traditional Japanese Fashion, Anime characters, Japanese Food, ceremonies, robots and technology to name a few.

The Showko Bunraku Puppet Show will be a treat for all. A reminder to send in payment before the day.

We are in need of parent help for many of the Japanese Cultural Activities. Please email myself at <mailto:sharyn.morrice@education.vic.gov.au> if you can spare some time to assist. Your help will make a big difference!!!

The children are very excited and with your help I know it will be an incredible day of learning and Culture.

Many thanks

Sharyn Morrice

Protecting Against Mosquito-borne Disease

Warm and wet weather can result in greater numbers of mosquitoes and an increased risk of illness from mosquito bites. While the overall risk is currently low, some mosquitoes may be carrying diseases that make people sick. The best protection against mosquito-borne illness is to avoid mosquito bites.

Families can protect against mosquito bites by:

- covering up as much as possible with long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing
- applying insect repellent that contains picaridin or DEET on exposed skin when outdoors
- limiting outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are active
- clean up and remove containers and items around the home that may hold water where mosquitoes may breed.

Families with any health concerns should see their doctor or phone NURSE-ON-CALL: 1300 606 024 (available 24 hours).

Free Japanese encephalitis vaccines

Japanese encephalitis virus is spread to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes and can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain.

A free vaccine is available to some individuals to protect Victorians at higher risk of the virus.

For more information, including vaccine eligibility, refer to the Department of Health's [Japanese encephalitis webpage](#).

Find out more

For more information on protecting against mosquito-borne diseases, families can refer to the following Better Health Channel pages:

- [Mosquitoes can carry diseases](#)
- [Protect yourself from mosquito-borne disease](#), including a handy checklist to help reduce mosquito breeding sites at home and resources translated into other languages.
- [Japanese encephalitis virus](#)

YEARS
3-6

Living and growing program

Mount Macedon Primary School, 2025

Year 3-6 classroom program: Wednesday 5 November, Fridays 7, 14 November 2025

Year 3

3 x 60-minute sessions over 3-week program

- learn the proper names for simple reproductive and private parts
- talk about concepts of public and private, and learn about body safety, including body signals, identifying trusted adults and consent
- discussion about families
- talk about emotions and how to manage them
- growing up and change including an introduction to puberty

Year 4

3 x 60-minute sessions over 3-week program

- learn and revise the proper names for private and reproductive parts
- concepts of public and private, body safety, body signals, identifying trusted adults and consent
- discussion about families and what it means to be in a family
- simple explanation of conception, pregnancy and birth
- discuss growing and changing and highlight some of the changes of puberty

Year 5/6 (P2 program)

3 x 90-minute sessions over 3-week program

Week 1

- revise the names and functions of reproductive body parts
- reinforce body safety messages and the concept of body autonomy and consent
- conception, pregnancy and birth explained
- revise the physical changes of puberty and how to manage them

Week 2

- discuss periods and wet dreams and how to manage them
- discuss the social and emotional changes of puberty and practical tips on how to manage them
- discuss the range of feelings that individuals have about puberty; how to be supportive, kind and empathetic to peers

Week 3

- answer student questions from question box
- explore friendships and family relationships and discuss how to manage conflict
- discuss responsible, respectful and safe use of technology and social media
- identify trusted adults who students can talk to for support and where they can go for more information

As we head into the warmer months, please note the following important reminders!

- All medication must be **supplied by parents** – we do not have a school supply of Panadol, hayfever medication or other treatments.
- A **Medical Authority Form** must be completed for any medication to be administered which can be found on our website [here](#).
- Medication must be in its **original packaging**, clearly labelled, and handed in at the office.
- Medications listed on the completed form are stored in the First Aid room.
- All medication given at school are **documented on Compass** – parents receive a notification at the time it is administered.
- Please check your child's **Ventolin/Epipens** are in date and supply a spacer for asthma puffers.

OUTSIDE PLAY

- Hats are required in **Term 1 and Term 4**.
- Sunscreen is available in classrooms, but if your child has allergies, please provide their own clearly labelled sunscreen for them to apply.
- Staff do not apply sunscreen to children unless assistance is requested.

Thank you for helping us keep all students safe, healthy, and ready for learning.



Ready to try something new?

Join Scouts

Macedon Woodend Scout Group is looking for young people to join their Group!

Every week, nearly half a million young people dive into exciting adventures, make lifelong friendships, and explore the great outdoors with Scouting!

Try Scouts today and enjoy 3 weeks FREE to see why the fun never stops. Whether it's camping, hiking, or tackling STEM challenges, there's always something thrilling happening.

Don't miss out, unlock your adventure today!

For more information or to join email, gj.macedonwoodend@scoutsvictoria.com.au



Music in the Sticks (MITS) presents:

KYNETON SHOW YOUTH STAGE

6-9PM Friday 14 November 2025



Featuring:

- Junkyard Wizards
- Rhiannon Winchester
- Felonys
- Mousie Coco

Standard entry fees apply.
Kyneton Showgrounds 184-194 Mollison St, Kyneton
mssc.vic.gov.au/MITS

All-ages | Drug, alcohol, smoke & vape free



JOIN US
AT GISBORNE LIBRARY
FOR A

HALLOWEEN MOVIE



THURSDAY 30 OCT. AT 3:45 PM

A SPOOKY MOVIE SUITABLE FOR KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

TRICK OR TREAT BAG FOR FIRST 20 KIDS
BOOKINGS NOT REQUIRED

5TH NOV 2025 — 6pm - 7:30pm

COME & TRY ORIENTEERING

AWAKEN YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE



Tickets on sale now!



Twilight School brings our community together for inspiring evening workshops, run by community members and local businesses at Salesian College Sunbury.

Learn new skills, connect with others, and have fun this November!

Tickets on sale now!

Come and Try Orienteering at the home of the Ashes!

Wednesday November 5th 6pm Salesian College Sunbury.

Awaken your sense of adventure this year: try orienteering!

It's the versatile and exciting adventure sport where your aim is to reach all the checkpoints on a special map as quickly as you can.

We'll explain how the maps work, what you are looking for and what you need to do.

All equipment is loaned on the night, just wear comfortable clothes and shoes to walk / jog in.

This event is part of the Twilight school workshops aimed at learning new skills, connecting with others and most of all having fun!

Registrations are accepted through:

<https://events.humanitix.com/twilight-school-single-sessions>

Cost: \$10 + booking fee

SAT NOV 1ST TYLDEN HALL

TYLDENVANIA

ALWAYS SPOOKY NEVER SCARY 4PM TO 11PM



ALL AGES

SPOOKY TUNES ALL NIGHT

LIVE BANDS THEE CHA CHACHAS

THE ELECTRIC FEELS

FOOD TRUCKS

BEHANCED BAR \$12/\$6

TICKETS HERE

UNDER 18'S MUST BE SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES NO BYO STRICT 'NO JERKS' POLICY



IMAGINE THE FUN

Find your local program today

Q Play cricket



Register here: <https://www.playhq.com/cricket-australia/register/e85e9f>

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), in partnership with Macedon Ranges Shire Council, will be installing a temporary survey camera at the Mt Macedon Rd (Salisbury Rd) school crossing from Tuesday 28 October to Thursday 30 October.

This camera will help collect traffic and pedestrian movement data to identify and address any road safety issues in our community.

Privacy is protected

The technology only detects movement. No one can be identified, and all faces are blurred.

Thank you for your understanding and support as this important safety work is carried out.

For more information, please contact Macedon Ranges Shire Council Engineering Department on **03 5422 0333**.

Share your views to help make our school safer

The Department of Education is inviting parents and carers to take part in an [online survey](#).

The survey seeks views on how the department can best protect school communities from harmful behaviour by parents and carers, and other adults:

- on school grounds and other places school activities happen
- online including social media.

Harmful behaviours can include abusive, aggressive and disruptive behaviours, including on social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.

The survey will help the department:

- better understand community attitudes around this issue
- seek input on whether stronger protections are needed for school communities.

The survey closes at 11:59 pm on Monday 10 November 2025.

At Mount Macedon Primary School, we are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for the entire school community. We support ongoing efforts to address harmful behaviour by adult members of our school community, including online.

We encourage you to share your views by taking part in the survey.

To access the survey, refer to [Keeping school staff safe onsite](#) and online on the Engage Victoria website.

School Community Safety Order Scheme: statutory review

A report and recommendations from the statutory review of the School Community Safety Order Scheme are now available.

While the majority of parents and carers work well with schools to resolve concerns, sometimes there is harmful behaviour affecting our school staff and students. The scheme allows principals and other authorised persons in Victorian schools to make School Community Safety Orders to stop or limit parents, carers and other adults who behave in harmful, threatening or abusive ways towards people in the school community.

For more information on the review, refer to [Independent statutory review into the School Community Safety Order Scheme](#).

For more information on the scheme, refer to the [School Community Safety Orders webpage](#).

Respectful behaviours in the school community

For more information on the shared roles of parents, carers and school staff in creating a positive environment for learning, refer to the department's Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy webpage.

Prep Bag 2025 Survey

Each year, the Department of Education gives every Prep student attending a Victorian government school a bag full of goodies to celebrate this milestone in their education journey. The educational resources and information in the bags are aimed at helping Prep students and their families have a great start to the year.

The department is inviting parents and carers of current Prep students to complete a short survey about the 2025 Prep bags, by 11:59 pm on Sunday 26 October 2025.

Your feedback will help the department learn what families liked and what can be improved in 2026. You can have your say at [Prep bags 2025 evaluation survey](#).

The survey takes 5 to 10 minutes. It is voluntary. Responses are anonymous and will not be shared with third parties outside the department.

For more information about this year's Prep bags, refer to [Prep bags](#).

Scholarships to Support Students

Department of Education scholarships are available for eligible students in Grade 4 to Year 11, and for Year 12 students planning to do tertiary studies in 2026.

Student scholarships

The Department of Education administers a number of scholarships that are available to eligible students who are enrolled in Grade 4 to Year 12 in 2025.

Applicants for these scholarships will be evaluated on their:

- participation in school activities
- community involvement
- academic achievement.

Scholarships are either one-off payments or cover the duration of the student's course or annual study.

Many of these scholarships have specific eligibility criteria, so please refer to individual applications for more information. Applications open on Wednesday 1 October 2025 and close on Monday 2 February 2026. For more information and a list of available scholarships, refer to the [Student scholarships for Grade 4 to Year 12 fact sheet](#).

Wominjeka- Welcome

WURUNDJERI WOI WURRUNG CULTURAL HERITAGE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

8th March – International Women's Day

17-23rd March – Neurodiversity Celebration Week

17th – 23rd March – Harmony Week

April – Autism Acceptance Month

20th May – International Day of Happiness

MAY – Australians Biggest Morning Tea

12-17th May – Mental Health Awareness Week

17th May – IDAHOBIT

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

30th August – Wear it purple day

31st August – Daffodil Day

10th September – World Suicide Prevention Day

12th September – R U OK? Day

October – Mental Health Awareness Month

10th October – World Mental Health Day

14th November – World Diabetes Day

3rd December – International Day of People with a Disability



Key Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Dates

20th March – National Close the Gap Day

26th May – National Sorry Day

27th May – Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum

27th May – 3rd June – Reconciliation Week

3rd June – Mabo Day

July 6th – 13th – NAIDOC Week

4th August – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

9th August – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

3rd September (First Wednesday) – Indigenous Literacy 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.



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

