Welcome to the Mount Macedon Primary School Newsletter

Issue 12 Tuesday 6th May 2025

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Keep an eye on these dates for any changes.

Any changes will be reflected on Compass

Important Term Dates

May
7th District AFL (selected students only)
8th Yr 5/6 Mindful Girls Program
16th – National Ride to School Day
19th District Soccer
19-23 Education Week – theme 'Celebrate All Cultures'
27th Branch Out – Brainstorm Productions Performance

June
3rd – 11th Somers Camp (selected students only)
6th District Netball
9th Kings Birthday Public Holiday
24th Wurundjeri Mob Incursion

July
4th LAST DAY OF TERM – 2.30 finish

FOS Dates

Mother's Day Event: Friday 9th May @ 7pm

Neon Disco: Friday 20th June 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Principal's Report

Hello everyone,

FOS Update: We have had a very busy FOS schedule these last few weeks and a VERY busy FOS Committee organising all sorts of wonderful events. We had an election day sausage sizzle and bake sale that brought in just over $1500 but most importantly had our wonderful students and parents working with our community. It was so wonderful to see our students helping sell the wonderful food, including running up the sales, calculating totals and just generally being amazing! FOS have also been hard at working organising the upcoming Mother's Day Event, a dinner party being held tomorrow night! If you would like to come along but haven't RSVP's yet, please jump onto Compass and do so, it's not too late!

Review Update: We had our 'Fieldwork Day' aspect of our School Review on Tuesday. This day included the review panel meeting with parents, students and teachers and gave the panel a chance to experience the day to day programs of the school. Taking the time to meet with parents, students and teachers gave the panel a really great overview of the different perspectives of our school community. The panel will now meet on Tuesday of next week to formalise some recommendations for goals and targets that will form our new School Strategic Plan.

Whole School Scienceworks Excursion: Planning is underway to take our whole school on an excursion to Scienceworks. This aligns with the Inquiry units each classroom is undertaking this term. Information will go home in the next day or so with information regarding this excursion.

Mindful Girls Program: Today our grade 5 and grade 6 girls took part in a program aimed at developing essential social-emotional skills. The program is underpinned by a therapeutic approach, equipping students with valuable tools and strategies to navigate friendships and challenges with confidence. Today's session looked at understanding friendships and navigating conflict while next Thursday's session will focus n building resilience and communicating with confidence.

2024 Annual Report to The School Community (ARC): Our 2024 ARC will be presented at tonight's public reporting meeting of School Council tonight. We encourage all who can to attend. We are really proud of the work that has been completed last year and the ongoing work MMPS is doing.

I hope everyone is coping with the drop in temperature! It's a great chance to make sure your child's names are on their jumpers as we quite often get an influx of unnamed jumpers and coats at this time of year!

Many thanks, Joe.

School Saving Bonus reminder and allocation to school activities

The Victorian Government is delivering the School Saving Bonus (SSB) – a one-off support of $400 for eligible government school students from Prep to Year 12 in 2025.

The SSB can be used for uniforms and textbooks until Monday 30 June 2025.

Any funds remaining after 30 June 2025, including online voucher amounts that have not been redeemed, will become a credit to use on school activities. However, the credit will not be available on your family account at our school until late July. To use any remaining SSB funds to cover the cost of school activities in July, please refer to the SSB online system and allocate the funds to school activities before 30 June 2025. To learn more about the SSB online system, download the step-by-step System guide for parents and carers (DOCX, 945KB) or watch this School Saving Bonus video. System guide translations are also available in 14 languages.

The Department of Education's SSB contact centre will remain available until 30 June 2025. The contact centre can be reached by:

· completing the School Saving Bonus enquiry form

· calling 1800 338 663, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays.

After this date, please contact our administration team for any SSB related questions.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The CSEF helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. Means-tested concession cards must be valid on the first day of Term 1, 2025 (Tuesday 28 January 2025) or Term 2, 2025 (Tuesday 22 April 2025).

A student aged 16 years and over who is considered a mature minor and holds a valid concession card is also eligible to apply.

Eligible families will receive a payment of $154 per year for primary school students and $256 per year for secondary school students [remove primary/ secondary as necessary]. The funds will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on [insert school phone number] and ask for an application form. Please return completed application forms to the school office as soon as possible.

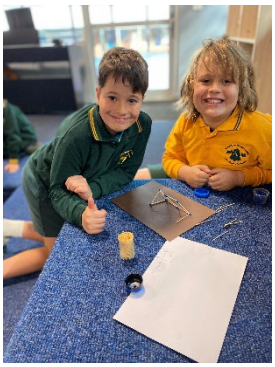
Grade 3/4 Inquiry Unit

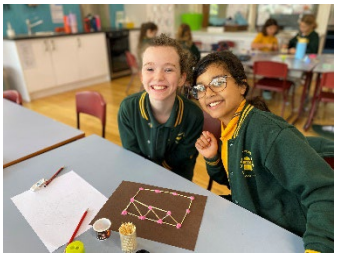
For the first half of this term our unit of work is on 'Sharing the Planet' with a central idea of: *The design of buildings and structures is dependent upon the community's needs, environment and available material.*

During this unit we will be focusing on how and why buildings are designed, the materials used and the needs of the community. We will be looking at housing around the world and culminating in designing and constructing our own model buildings.

Last week we looked at houses around the world and how they differ depending on community and environmental needs. We then worked in pairs or threes to design and make earthquake proof houses out of toothpicks and playdough. We tested these using a shake table to see if they could withstand the ground shaking. Most of our houses survived but that could have been due to all of the playdough holding them together!!

A part of this unit we are also putting the call out to any parent who works in building or building design that might like to come along and talk to the class about their work and the process of designing with environmental and community needs in mind. If you are able to help please let us know and we will organise a time.





Spelling at MMPS

At MMPS, we implement an extensive spelling testing program at the beginning of each year to identify each child's areas of strength and areas for improvement. This process creates an individualised plan that outlines the specific spelling rules each student needs to focus on.

Every week, your child will work on a spelling rule identified as a priority for them, with their spelling words directly linked to that rule.

Students are tested each week on these words and teachers specifically look for these words in their writing as well.

We encourage families to explore additional words that follow the same rule at home. We believe this approach provides students with the best opportunity to develop their spelling skills effectively.

Recognising and Celebrating IDAHOBIT

The Department of Education is committed to ensuring all Victorian government schools are respectful, safe and inclusive places of learning and work for all students, staff and members of our school communities.

As part of this commitment, the department supports schools to join the many other schools and workplaces across the country to recognise International Day Against LGBTIQA+ Discrimination (IDAHOBIT) which falls on 17 May annually.

This is to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer, questioning and asexual (LGBTIQA+) people in our schools and the community, in accordance with obligations in the Child Safe Standards to uphold diversity and equity for everyone regardless of their background, characteristics or beliefs.

We welcome anyone at our school who wants to mark the day to do so.

For more information, refer to the IDAHOBIT website.

If you have any queries, you can contact the department by email: enquiries@education.vic.gov.au

In Digital Technologies, our junior students explored the magic behind musical greeting cards. We began by examining one of these cards and brainstorming how it might work—ideas ranged from tiny CDs and motion sensors to… a miniature person with an instrument living inside the card. Then, the real fun began as we carefully pulled one apart to reveal the tiny electronic components inside.

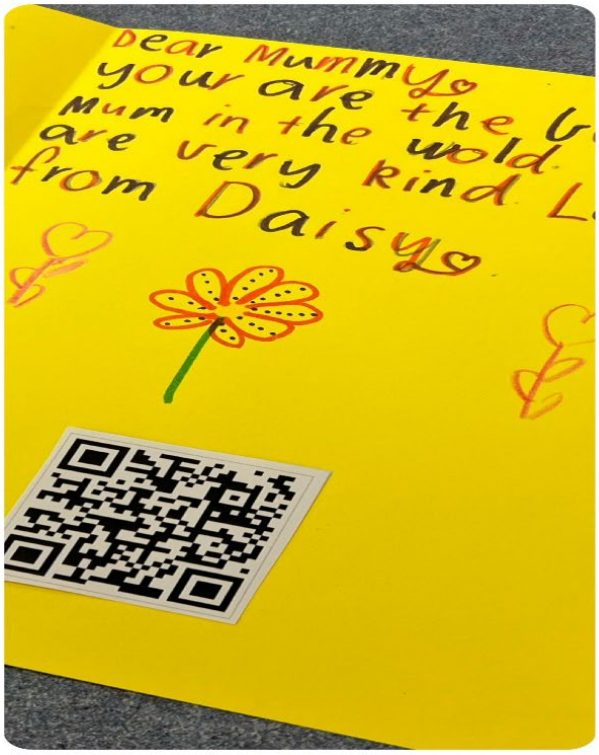
We discovered a small motherboard with a chip programmed to play music and a simple metal switch that completes a circuit when the card is opened. This led to a fascinating discussion about open and closed circuits—how electricity only flows when the circuit is complete (closed), and how opening the card causes paper to move out from under the metal strip to allow it to connect with the circuit board, closing the circuit and triggering the music.

Rather than building our own tiny musical circuits (which would be tricky and not very sustainable), we explored modern digital alternatives. We learned about QR codes—how they can store links to audio and video messages and are far more versatile and efficient than traditional barcodes.

Students then handmade their own Mother's Day cards, recorded a personal message, generated a QR code, and added it to their card design.

So, this Mother's Day, keep your phone close by—you'll need it to scan the QR code and hear a beautiful, heartfelt message made just for you (and let's be honest, it beats another scented candle).

Mr Garcia



Mount Macedon Primary School is once again participating in the Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge. The challenge encourages students to read a set number of books over the year and record their efforts. Students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate at the end of the year. All students are participating, with junior class teachers keeping a whole class record of books read together, while senior classes (Grade 5 and 6) are adding their own books. The challenge closes at the end of Term 3, so keep reading and adding books!

https://vprc.eduweb.vic.gov.au/home

Come and try orienteering - Sunday 18th May 2025 - Scout camp carpark - Middle gully Rd, MACEDON

The Macedon regional forest is looking splendid this time of year. You can choose from easy, moderate or hard course navigation challenges depending on how experienced you are. The easy course will go along or near easy to follow features (like paths), the moderate course will be a bit more challenging and might involve reading a few more contour features and the hard courses are designed more for experienced orienteers. There'll be lots of friendly helpers on the day to help you choose the right course for you and get the hang of the navigational side of things.

Registration from 9:30am, choose your own start time from 10:00am-11:30am but please finish your course by 1pm.

SIGNIFICANT DATES TO ACKNOWLEDGE

8th March – International Women's Day

17-23rd March – Neurodiversity Celebration Week

17th – 23rd March – Harmony Week

April – Autism Acceptance Month

20th May – Internation 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 – Internation Day of People with a Disability

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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 Worlds Indigenous Peoples

3rd September (First Wednesday) – Indigenous Literacy Day

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National Reconciliation Week is an annual event dedicated to strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non- Indigenous Australians. It marks the anniversaries of two significant milestones in Australia: the 1967 referendum, which recognised Indigenous Australians in the census, and the 1992 Mabo decision, which acknowledged native title rights.
This year's National Reconciliation Week theme encourages everyone to take action towards reconciliation by learning about Indigenous histories, cultures, and contributions. Schools can participate by incorporating Indigenous perspectives into lessons, holding cultural activities, inviting Indigenous speakers, and reflecting on the importance of reconciliation. Resources for schools can be found through **Reconciliation Australia**

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.