



**MOUNT BLOWHARD
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Information Booklet

2016



Department of
Education & Training

For Your Information

MOUNT BLOWHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

'A School at the Top of the Range'

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Mrs Louisa Jacks.....

Department of Education & Early Childhood Development
South West Victoria Region

A RICH HISTORY

For over 130 years Mount Blowhard Primary School has been the focal point of the local community with several generations of families attending our school. We are delighted to also welcome families from surrounding areas to our school community. This long history gives our school a strong sense of continuity and pride.

OUR FUTURE

Whilst ensuring that the character and charm of our school is maintained we continually aspire to be progressive in the programs we offer our students. In particular we are committed to outstanding English and Mathematics teaching as these provide the foundation for learning in many other curriculum areas.

Mount Blowhard Primary School offers students a full range of opportunities to develop holistically, focusing on both academic skills and also on physical, personal and interpersonal qualities.

CURRICULUM

English & Mathematics

These two subjects form the core of the primary school curriculum. Our English program involves the following:

- Explicit F-2 phonics program so students quickly learn letter sounds and blends, allowing them to confidently and accurately read words
- Spelling Mastery program Years 2 – 6, with 20 minutes of spelling every morning at 9am
- Independent and Guided Reading
- Handwriting program
- Explicit teaching of different text types in writing
- Intervention and support for students at risk in literacy
- Extension for students working above the expected level in literacy

Strong Mathematics skills allow successful participation in life. Our Mathematics program focuses on:

- Strong number skills, where students move from 10's, to 100's, 1000's and larger numbers with skill and confidence
- A times tables program for automatic recall in the senior years
- Emphasis on fractions, decimals and percentages in senior years
- Mental Maths homework program

Health & Physical Education

Physical Education is delivered via a specialist program and supported by classroom teachers. Students develop both skills and fitness. The focus in Term 1 is athletics, culminating in a Combined Schools athletics carnival; we then move onto team sports such as badminton, basketball, netball, soccer and football; and the focus in Term 4 is on swimming and water safety. Health is integrated into the daily programs, and special days and individual programs are conducted throughout the year.

The “Life Education Van” provides an annual program focusing on age-appropriate education in cyber safety, social skills, communication and drug education.

Swimming Program

Swimming is considered an essential component of our Physical Education curriculum. In 2016 the school is running an intensive program at Shayne Reese Swimming for 10 days during Term 4. Parents are welcome to attend. The Parents and Friends Association is covering the cost of this program for all students in 2016. We thank them for this significant contribution.

Music

Lunchtime singing and dancing clubs, special art days, private music lessons and a whole-school musical provide students with a rich music program

Information Technology

We have a 1:1 iPad program for Years 3 – 6. P/1/2 students also have a bank of iPads for class use. Teachers use Apple TV's in each classroom, so technology is an integral part of our school. Technology is always used purposefully, to support student learning.

COMMUNITY

Family Events

Each year the school holds several events designed to bring the community together. These events include family focused BBQs, schools fetes, sports days and more formal events such as our School Concert and Christmas break-up.

Grounds Maintenance

Working Bees are held periodically, both for ongoing maintenance and special projects. School Council asks for support from parents and community members to ensure that our school buildings and grounds are well kept and are an attractive environment for all members of the Mount Blowhard PS community.

School Council

The Mount Blowhard School Council allows parents the opportunity to have input into the overall direction of the school. Our School Council is comprised of parent representatives, the school Principal, school staff representatives and co-opted members of the community. School Council meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7.00pm in the main meeting room. There are several active sub-committees including the Finance Sub-Committee, Policy Sub-Committee and Grounds Sub-Committee. All school community members are welcome to attend meetings.

Parents and Friends Association

The Parents and Friends' Association meets once a month and welcomes new parents and members of the Mount Blowhard community. Notification of meetings and other activities are advertised via the school newsletter.

Play Group

The Ascot Playgroup meets in the Mount Blowhard PS Community Meeting Room. For further information and dates contact the school office.

CAMPS & EXCURSIONS

Excursions

Mt Blowhard Primary School students participate in a number of excursions both on our own and with neighboring schools. These activities are chosen to provide our students with a broad range of educational experiences as well as the social benefits of being part of a larger group.

School Camps

We are currently reviewing our school camping program. Camps for 2016 will involve a beach and water safety camp for Years 5/6 and a local overnight camp for Years 3/4. F/1/2 students enjoy a school sleepover, which provides a gradual introduction to our school camping program.

On alternative years senior students have access to Somers Camp and Woorabinda Camp, which are both department run and funded camps offered to students of Victorian government schools.

Camping programs promote independence, organization, leadership and social skills, as well as the more specific learning that occurs in particular locations e.g. geography learning on a beach camp. Involvement in camps is extremely valuable for all students. Camps may be paid in instalments during the year. Payment plans can be discussed confidentially with the Principal at any time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Leadership

As a small school, Mount Blowhard Primary School is able to provide numerous opportunities for Year 6 students to develop their leadership skills. School Captains, Bus Captains, Junior School Council and Assembly Leaders are all positions senior students fill. Students learn about meeting protocols, how to give and receive feedback, public speaking and organization. They develop a strong sense of teamwork and school pride. Our students move into secondary school with the confidence to put themselves forward for leadership positions.

Home Reading

All children are involved in a Home Reading Program. As part of this program, children will take a book home each day. Please respect your child's choice and enjoy reading it with your child. If the book is not finished in one evening, still return the book the next day. The Student Reading Diary is used as a means of communicating about this program.

Book Club

During the year, children may buy books through the Scholastic Australia Book Club. This is not compulsory, but encourages children's reading development and provides the opportunity for parents to purchase reading materials at a reasonable cost.

MARC Van

The Mobile Area Resource Centre (MARC) Van visits every fortnight. All students take part in the Library Program with a trained teacher. This provides a wonderful addition to our literacy program.

Homework

P/1: sight words, daily home reading of take-home books, maths practice

2/3: sight words (as required), spelling words, daily home reading, Mental Maths book

4/5/6: spelling words, daily home reading, Mental Maths book, additional activities as set by classroom teacher (for example, preparing for a presentation).

Homework set by the class teacher is intended to provide students with opportunities to build on their learning and development. Homework also helps

parents to follow their children's progress and helps prepare students for secondary school in terms of organization in particular.

School Timetable

9.00 am - 11.00 am	Morning programs: English and Mathematics
11.00 am - 11.30 am	Recess
11.30 am - 1.00 pm	Morning programs: English and Mathematics
1.00 pm - 2.00 pm	Lunch (eaten in classrooms or supervised outside when weather permits) and outside play
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm	Afternoon programs (art, PE, integrated units i.e. history, geography, science, technology, design)
3.30 pm	End of school day

SCHOOL POLICIES

Sunsmart...Slip/Slop/Slap/ Slide & Seek



Students should be protected from sun damage as much as possible before, during and after school hours. Mt Blowhard Primary School is a Sunsmart School. Our Sunsmart Policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending this school are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. It is to be implemented throughout the year but with particular emphasis on Terms 1 and 4.

As part of general Sunsmart strategies, our school:

- Requires children to wear broad-brimmed or bucket hats whenever they are outside (recess, lunch, sport, excursions) during Terms 1 and 4.
- Provides SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for staff and student use.
- Encourages the daily application of sunscreen before school and prior to lunch break.
- Encourages students to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- Requests staff and parents to act as role models by practicing Sunsmart behaviours.

Skin Cancer awareness is also included as part of the Health & Physical Education curriculum.

Naming of Clothing

It is essential that all clothing is named. Each year we accumulate a large number of unclaimed items of valuable clothing. Lost property is currently stored in the staffroom.

Conveyance Allowance

There is an allowance for families who must travel more than 4.8 kilometers to school (if there is no bus) or to the nearest bus stop. Applications for this allowance will be called for at the beginning of the year. Please see the school office for further details.

School Bus

The bus service is coordinated by Mount Blowhard Primary School and administered according to Public Transport and Department of Education policies. Students are eligible to travel on school buses if they live 4.8 kilometers or more from the school and Mount Blowhard Primary School is the closest school to the student's residential address. Please ask for further information at the school office.

Newsletter

Our school newsletter promotes all the wonderful things that happen at our school and keeps families informed of upcoming events. Community contributions are encouraged. The newsletter is given to the eldest child in each family on Thursday before dismissal. The newsletter is also available via email.

Additional notices are often necessary and will be sent home via the eldest in the family or with the particular students involved.

School Lunches

Please pack a realistic quantity of lunch for your child to eat. Many students do not eat as much during the day as they are busy and instead need to have a big snack at home. Others are hungry all day! Students are supervised eating their lunch inside and any uneaten food will be sent home. We encourage all parents to provide a healthy lunch with plenty of fruit, sandwiches, and items such as cheese and cut up vegetables for sustained energy.

Hot Lunches:

Students may bring food to be heated in the pie warmer. All food is to be wrapped in foil and clearly named. These are placed on trays in the kitchen when students arrive in the morning and taken to classrooms by staff at the beginning of lunch.

Food requiring the transporting of hot liquid is not to be sent to school (no noodles, cup-of-soups etc.)

Drinks:

Students should have a water bottle each day, both for them to stay hydrated and also to avoid having to leave their classroom when they are thirsty.

Dress Code

Mount Blowhard Primary School Council Policy is that all students wear school uniform. This provides children with a sense of unity and pride in their school and promotes equality amongst students.

Summer:

- Polo Top – Maroon or White
- Windcheater – Maroon
- Check Dress – Blue & White
- Girls – Navy Shorts
- Boys – Grey or Navy Shorts
- Track Pants – Navy Blue or Maroon
- Hat – Navy Blue broad-brimmed or Nave bucket hat

Winter:

- Track Pants – Navy Blue or Maroon
- Windcheater – Maroon
- Skivvy or Long Sleeved Polo – White

These items can be ordered with the school emblem through:

Rufcut Clothing

Cnr Lyons & Eyre Streets

BALLARAT

Ph: 5332 2477

A price list is available at the School Office.

Footwear:

- Students must wear safe and sensible footwear - runners, sneakers, leather shoes, riding boots, etc.
- **Open-toed shoes and thongs are not permitted for safety reasons.**

Secondhand Clothing

Uniform which students have grown out of can be donated to the school. It is displayed on hangers in the school staffroom. If you can use any of these uniform items you are most welcome to take them free of charge.

If you have any secondhand uniform items you are no longer using, please wash and iron them and place on a hanger for others to use.

Monday Assembly

Assemblies are held each Monday afternoon at 3.00pm in the Community Meeting Room. Year 6 students run each assembly. The format includes singing the National Anthem, upcoming events, student awards, news and information, special events and presentation of student work.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM

Australians all let us rejoice,
For we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;
Our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts,
Of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage
Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross
We'll toil with hearts and hands;
To make this Commonwealth of ours
Renowned of all the lands;
For those who've come across the seas,
We've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine
To Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing,
Advance Australia Fair.

School Photos

A professional school photographer visits our school each year to take individual and class photos. Information is sent home during the year well in advance of school photographs being taken.

Money

ALL money sent to school should be put in a school envelope with the child's name and the reason for the money shown, eg.

John Smith – Year 5
Camp Deposit
\$20.00

A supply of school envelopes will be provided to all families each year. More envelopes are always available at the office on request. Envelopes can be sent via your child's reader pouch or given directly to school office staff for payment acknowledgement.

School Requisites Charge

The School Requisites Charge was \$100 per student for 2015. This will rise slightly over the coming years to reflect general price increases. The school uses the School Requisites Charge to pay for all student classroom requisites, including work books, stationery, reading diaries, Spelling Mastery books, Mental Maths books, art and reading supplies. The Requisites Charge is to be paid in Term 1 as the school orders purchases supplies at the beginning of the year.

All families are asked to donate two boxes of tissues per child at the beginning of each school year. This ensures we have a ready supply for every classroom when the cold season hits and is a great way to reduce costs. Thank you for your support.

Health

Sick students must not be sent to school as we do not have the facilities or personnel to nurse sick students.

Students should be made aware of important health practices such as washing hands and having and using a clean handkerchief. Please make sure that the school is made aware of any health or other condition from which your child suffers. Medical examinations are conducted each year by a Community Service Nurse for all Year Prep students. If a parent wishes to have their child referred for a specific reason, please contact your child's teacher. The City of Ballarat Health Officer assists with other health matters such as immunisations. If your child suffers from Asthma or Anaphylaxis, a Medical Plan from your doctor must be provided to the school.

Medication:

Please see your child's class teacher if medication is to be administered to students. Under no circumstances are students to take medicine unsupervised. If medication is to be given to a student, the parent must have written clearly the name of the student, the dosage to be given and the frequency of the dosage and given it to the class teacher.

Infectious Diseases:

Children contracting some infectious diseases will be excluded from school. Please refer to the following table:

DISEASE	EXCLUSION TIME
Chicken Pox	Until fully recovered
Measles	Seven (7) days from the appearance of the rash
Mumps	Until fully recovered
Ringworm	Until appropriate treatment has commenced
Whooping Cough	Four (4) weeks or until medical certificate of recovery is produced
Rubella	Until fully recovered and at least four (4) days from the onset of the rash
Impetigo	Until sores have fully healed or provided that appropriate treatment is being applied and that sores of the exposed surfaces, e.g. scalp, face, hands and legs are properly covered with occlusive dressing

Head Lice:

Unfortunately, some students get head lice during their time at school. As head lice are very contagious it is important that parents immediately treat their child's hair correctly. The school will conduct head lice inspections at times during the year. Students must be collected from school and kept at home until they have been treated.

Immunisation Certificates:

All children require an Immunisation Certificate to be enrolled at school. Even if your child is not fully immunised, this certificate must be presented. This allows the school to respond quickly and appropriately in the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease, as staff are aware of which children have or have not been immunised against particular diseases. Children may enroll at school without being immunised, but they must present this certificate.

Illness & Accidents

There may be times when students become ill at school or have accidents that cause injury. In such cases, the school will contact parents, who can then collect their children or approve appropriate medical attention. In emergencies, medical attention is obtained and parents are notified. Your child's safety is always our absolute priority.

It is therefore very important that parents keep their child's enrolment information up-to-date with their own and their preferred emergency contact telephone numbers.

STUDENT SAFETY

Delivering & Collecting Students from School

All care must be taken to obey the 'no entry' signs and parents and carers are asked to drop and collect children safely at the front of the school. Children are not permitted to play around cars or in the driveway before or after school. Your child's safety is our main concern. Please encourage your child to observe these rules. Parents must not park across the road when dropping off or picking up.

Bicycles

Bicycles must not be ridden in any part of the school grounds. Bicycle helmets **must** be worn by cyclists. Students should not borrow bicycles or allow them to be borrowed. There is a bike rack at the back of the school for students to store their bikes during the day.

Code of Conduct

We have a Student Code of Conduct and a Parent Code of Conduct. These are available from the school office. They set out students and parents rights and responsibilities and the consequences for breaches of school rules.

Our school rules are Be Nice, Be Honest, Be Safe, Be Positive, and Be a Learner.