

MOUNT BLOWHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No 17

5th December 2023

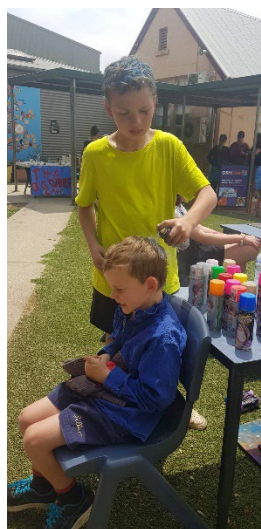
Our School Vision

Our School Vision is to ensure that all students achieve their academic, social, emotional and physical potential in a supportive and purposeful learning environment, where our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Excellence and Kindness underpin all interactions. Our school believes in high expectations for all students in an atmosphere of care and support. We are committed to preparing our students to be creative, adaptable and responsible citizens of both their local and global community.

ACTING PRINCIPALS REPORT

Spring Fete

What a success! The 5/6 students did an amazing job of preparing and running their Spring Fete stalls. They should be so very proud of their efforts and leadership. We certainly are as a community. The feedback from all those who attended was extremely positive! Thank you to the families for supporting the preparation and running of each stall too. A big well done to Mrs Box for overseeing and masterfully supporting her class and the day!



NAPLAN

Final data for NAPLAN comparisons was released last term. Our extremely strong NAPLAN data validates the core work we are doing as a learning community. As a staff, we are extremely proud of our effective and inclusive approaches. This is reflected below in the percentage of MBPS students attaining strong or exceeding compared to similar, network and state schools:

Year 3 NAPLAN

- Reading-above similar schools and network schools (Central Highlands) and equal to the state
- Writing-well above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state
- Spelling-well above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state
- Numeracy-above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state

Year 5 NAPLAN

- Reading- above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state
- Writing-well above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state
- Spelling-well above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state
- Numeracy-above similar schools, network schools (Central Highlands) and the state

Walkathon

As you are aware, on Friday 8th December we are having our annual Walkathon up and down Mount Hollowback. This school community event has been running for almost ten years. The Walkathon supports the Ryder Cheshire Foundation, who established the Raphael School in India 60 years ago.

Outline of the Afternoon:

12:30 pm Early lunchtime.

1:10 pm Staff and students gather for the walkathon and depart school. We will stagger the leaving times slightly, with the Prep class leaving first, followed by the 1/2s, 3/4s and then the 5/6s. **Parents and carers are most welcome to join us!**

2:10 pm Arrive at Mount Hollowback.

2:20 pm Walk up Mount Hollowback. Children will be provided with fruit and an icy-pole.

3:30 pm All students are to be collected from the Mount Hollowback gate by 3:30 pm. The children will have their school bag with them. **Bus travellers will also be collected from Mount Hollowback.**

Every year students do a wonderful job raising money for our sponsor child and we appreciate the efforts families go to in order to raise this money. As part of our focus on Community Service we are asking ALL students to raise \$5 each through sponsorship by asking relatives and family friends. This will cover our sponsorship commitment. **An example of how to raise this money could be \$2 from a grandparent, \$2 from a next-door neighbour and \$1 from parents.**

We don't want raising money to be stressful for everyone and \$5 per student is a manageable amount. We want students to see where the money goes and to understand how important it is to be able to send the money we raise to charities and how helpful this is to people in need.



Students of the Fortnight

Student of the week certificates acknowledge the individual strengths and positive efforts and behaviours of the children. Well-done, everyone!

Principal's Award

Emily G, Matilda S and Andy C: For being responsible by putting sport equipment away.

Robert Walsh - Acting Principal

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM

Prep

The countdown is on until the end of term and the Preps are looking forward to all the fun things we have coming up! Over the last fortnight, we have had several buddy sessions where we have been making some things to decorate the school and help us all get in the Christmas spirit. In Reading, we finished learning about colonial times. We always end the term with 'free choice' where a student gets to pick the book we read for the day, and we read for enjoyment. In Writing, we have been writing lots of stories as we have now learnt how to write a whole story. In Maths, we finished off learning about division with a remainder and completed the rest of our assessments.

We have a few more sessions with the 2024 Preps before the end of the year. The current Preps are doing a fantastic job at being role models and showing them what we do at school.

Students of the Week:

Annabelle for your great listening and learning during Maths.

Reuben for your fantastic learning of the FLOSS rule during Spelling.

Mrs Barendsen

News from our 1/2 Classroom

What a fantastic term we have had in term 4! Students have been learning lots and having heaps of fun.

We have been putting a lot of work into our Fluency this past fortnight, ensuring our feedback is effective and relevant. We also practiced reading with expression and using punctuation properly.

We have been reading Red Tree by Shaun Tan. Students have loved the discussions behind emotions and colour analysis.

Students have been sent home with a note regarding a costume for the Christmas concert today, please give it a read and come see me if you have any questions.

A reminder that reading rewards is just around the corner! Have you done 35 nights of reading?

Students of the week:

Thomas for his wonderful attitude towards learning.

Emily for working hard at working independently.

Have a great week!

Miss Allen 😊

3/4 Newsletter Report

It has been a productive fortnight of learning in the Year 3/4 classroom. We have been reading a new whole class text called 'Woof!' by Allan Ahlberg. It is about a boy who changes, seemingly randomly, into a dog. The students have compared the writing style of Allan Ahlberg to that of Roald Dahl. We read Dahl's 'The Witches' earlier in the year where a boy turned into a mouse. It is an amusing story, a rich descriptive text with plenty of exposure to interesting vocabulary.

In Fluency, the students have been in small groups to read different 'Reader's Theatre' texts. They practiced their short scripts as a group over four days and then performed them to the class.

In Maths, we have reviewing and practising multiplication and division facts (times tables). We have been doing an activity called the 'Two minute Challenge' where student have to answer as many multiplication and division facts as possible in two minutes. Automatic recall and speed is important, but the focus is on accuracy first.

Students of the week:

Freya for her imaginative use of a simile in writing.

Matthew for clearly explaining his reasoning behind a maths strategy that he was using in class.

Mr Nettelbeck

Year 5/6 Newsletter Report

What an amazing job the Year 5 & 6 students did organising the Spring Fete. They did an amazing job thinking about the type of stalls they wanted to create and did everything to make it happen. Thank you to the parents and their hard work getting supplies and everyone in the community who helped out with donations.

Thank you to Ms C, Mrs Werner, Mr Walsh, Zelma and classroom teachers for all their hard work on the day. Finally, a special thank you Marilyn Tyndall who donated all the baked goods for the fete.

We were so lucky with the weather and it was lovely to see all the families out and about enjoying the Fete, the crowd was wonderful to see on the day. Thanks to everyone who turned up and we hope you enjoyed the day.

Students of the week:

This award went to the entire class this time, for their time and effort on the day and the weeks leading up to it. Well done.

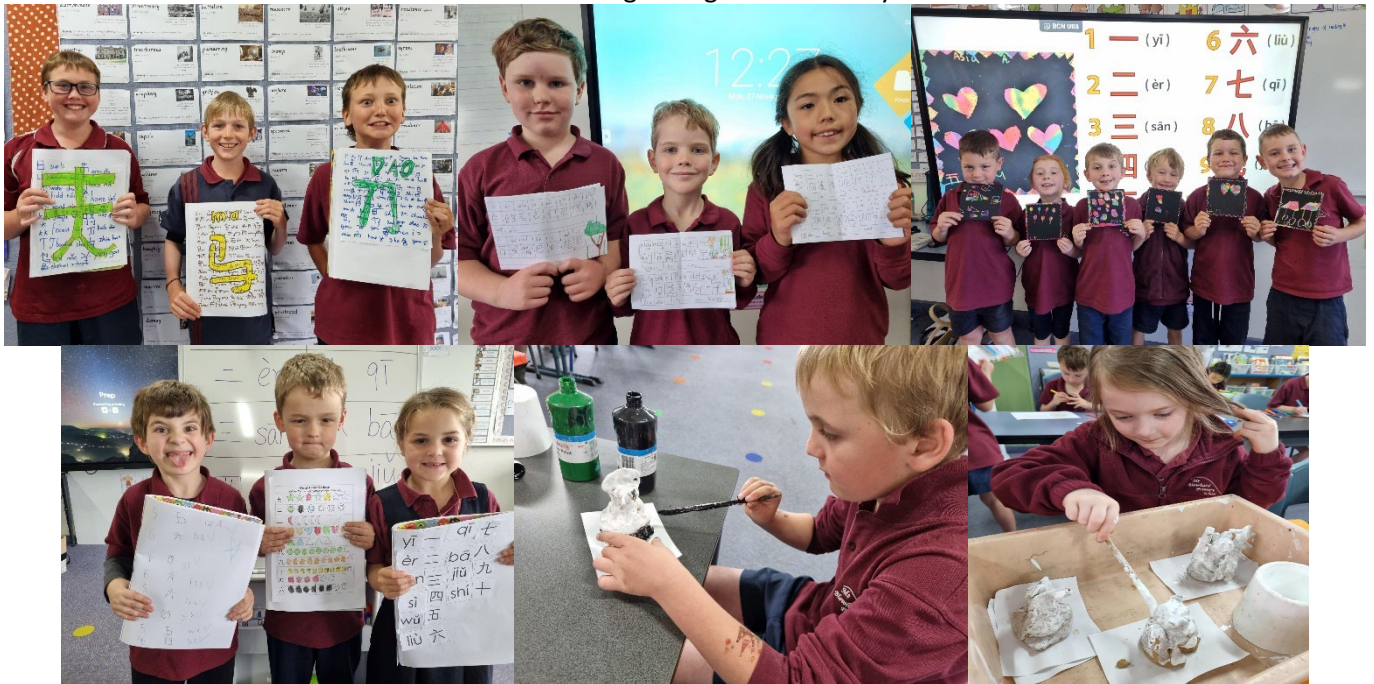
**Mrs
Box**



CHINESE

We have been super busy in the Chinese room. The Foundation students worked hard to create a piece of artwork using scratch art paper. They enjoyed writing Chinese numbers and drawing the corresponding number of objects to match. They enjoyed learning the Chinese numbers through a range of activities. Year 1/2 students have focused on constructing sentences using a wordlist. They were able to create a sentence in English and then interpret each word into Chinese characters. They enjoyed practising their handwriting and tried very hard to keep it neat and accurate. Students also loved creating their panda sculptures. The Year 3-6 students explored the origins and development of pictographic characters (象形; xiàngxíng; 'form imitation'). They understood that pictographic characters were created by ancient Chinese people who used simple picture-like labels as indications of the meaning of objects.

Students enjoyed writing different characters and creating a range of word-only artworks.



PE

Term 4 has been fun, we finished off our striking games and Teeball is definitely a favourite across all classes. The weather has allowed us to be outside and enjoy some big hitting and home runs. 5/6 are getting bike ready for next week. Prep to year 4 have been enjoying playing minor games of their choice to finish off the term.



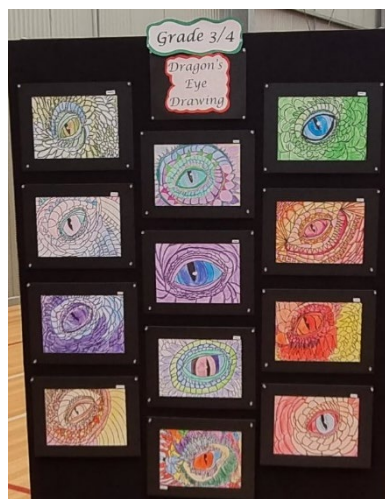
Art News

We have had a busy few week in Art!

The Art Exhibition was a huge success and it was so wonderful to see the students showing off their work to family and friends. Thank you to everyone for supporting the exhibition and for coming along.

Just want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students and families at MBPS for the last 2 years as I will not be returning next year. I've had a wonderful 2 years and loved seeing students embracing the Art program.

Thanks, Kate Ackland



PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Grampians Health Social Club Christmas Function

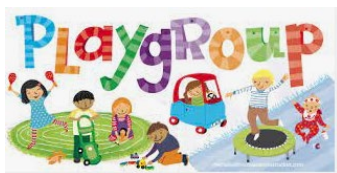
On Sunday the 3rd of Dec, P&F raised \$660 from cooking the BBQ at the Grampians Health Social Club Christmas Function. Thank you to Rachel Connell, Nathan Broome, Lauren Griffin, Amelia Gilbert, Anna Kelly, Kerri Gallagher, Daniel Park, Tim Stewart, Catherine Chibnall, and Matt & Claire Wallis, along with Claire's Mum, Louise, for kindly volunteering their time. We would also like to thank Grampians Health for giving our school the opportunity to be involved in this great fundraiser.

Burrumbeet Race Day Clean Up – Tuesday 2nd January 8:30-9:30am

Similar to previous years, the Burrumbeet Race Committee have offered the school the opportunity to raise money by helping to clean up the grounds after the Burrumbeet Cup on the 2nd of January. The cleanup usually occurs in the morning and takes no longer than 1½ hours. We are calling on families to volunteer their time to assist. It is also a fun catch up, as the kids enjoy seeing each other during the school holidays and have an opportunity to play. For any families able and willing to offer their time, please let us know by texting Liz Charles on 0413930269.

MT BLOWHARD COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The Blowhard Community Playgroup is a brilliant, volunteer run group that meets here at in the MBPS meeting room. Anyone is welcome to come along to the playgroup, you don't have to be a current parent of the school! If you would like more information on playgroup, please contact Jo Finnegan on 0466 698 703. The upcoming dates for playgroup are:



Term 4

- Friday 15th December – 9.00am

2023 DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Thursday 7th Assembly – Due to Walk-A-Thon

Friday 8th Walk-A-Thon

Monday 11th Year 6 Treat Day

Tuesday 12th Statewide Step-up day (students in their 2024 class from 9:00 am-1:30 pm)

Wednesday 13th Cinema excursion whole school

Thursday 14th P/1 excursion and stay-back

Friday 15th Playgroup – 9.00am.

Friday 15th Blowhard Has Talent (2:30 pm-3:30 pm) *New date

Friday 15th Year 5/6 bike ride (9:00 am – 2:45pm)

Tuesday 19th School Reports emailed home

Tuesday 19th School Concert

Wednesday 20th, F-6 Water Fight (optional, 1:00 pm-1:30 pm)

Wednesday 20th Last day of school, class parties – 1.30pm early finish.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE


WE ARE NOW TAKING DONATIONS
FOR THE MBPS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE.

Families are asked to please donate any Christmas themed goods, non-perishable food, or items for summer holiday fun that we can make hampers out of and raffle off at the Christmas concert on Tuesday the 19th of December.

Ticket sheets will be sent home with children for sale to family and friends for \$1 each. Donations of goods are to be made at the school office where extra ticket sheets will also be available.

Tickets, money and donations are due back to the office by Monday 11th December

We thank you for your continued support and generosity.



Learmonth's Annual Christmas Picnic



To welcome new residents to Learmonth and catch up with old friends
Mon 11th December from 5.30pm. At the community gardens.

BYO food and drinks. With a little to share.

All welcome