



Mount Blowhard Primary School, 527 Millers Road, Blowhard, Victoria 3352
Phone 03 5334 6354 Email mount.blowhard.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

MOUNT BLOWHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No 1

13th February 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

Welcome Back

The new school year is quickly upon us and moving at a rapid rate! hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and have had a chance to recharge. I certainly enjoyed the couple of weeks of summer weather we had during January.

Our fantastic Foundation (Prep) children commenced their educational journey and have settled in well due to the amazing efforts of Mrs Barendsen and the Year 5-6 Buddies.

Welcome to our community: Jack, Tommy, John, Reuben, Harley, Edan, Abigail, Annabelle, Finnley, Kayde, Aria, Isaiah and Ginny.

We also welcome Mina (Year 2), August (Year 3), Brayden (Year 3), and Matthew (Year 4) and their families to the Mount Blowhard Primary School community. We are so pleased to have you here!

We also welcome Miss Allen to the school as our wonderful Year 1/2 classroom teacher!

Community Barbecue

The MBPS Welcome Barbecue will take place on Wednesday 15th February, commencing at approximately 6:00 pm. Sausages, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided, along with Zooper Doopers. We look forward to coming together as a community for the first time in 2023.

Working Bee

Another successful working bee ensuring the school looks fabulous. Once again superbly co-ordinated by Mr Nettelbeck and supported by a very efficient team of families! Thank you to the Kelly, Griffin, Myers, Krammer, Broome, Connell, Humm and Basham-Chibnall families for volunteering your time and energy!

Interviews

On Wednesday 1st March, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's classroom teacher. With meetings being 10 minutes in duration for each child. Interviews will take place between 1:30 pm and 6:00 pm. This provides the opportunity to establish or enhance the home school connection, share relevant information to best support your

child and to discuss how they have settled into the new school year. Booking information will be sent out in the near future. Please note, children attend classes as normal on this day.

Healthy Minds

This Friday, we had a full curriculum day with Healthy Minds (they work Australia wide and globally). Parent seminars will also be offered.

The staff day included:

- Understanding and Overcoming Anxiety: Having a Healthy Mind
- Creating Healthy Minds
- Seven Secrets to a Healthy Mind
- Building School Connectedness

A little sample of the workshop Understanding and Overcoming Anxiety: Having a Healthy Mind:

- A clear understanding of what anxiety is, where it comes from, and what to do about it.
- The distinction between 'normal' and 'clinical' anxious states.
- 5 things everybody needs to know about anxiety.
- The 'Great Mistake' (the most common obstacle that impedes a robust psychology).
- How 2 core ingredients can overcome anxiety in any individual.
- The fundamental link between overcoming anxiety and building confidence.
- A comprehensive checklist for what teachers can do.
- Tips for creating a classroom culture to reduce the incidence of anxiety in your school.

At this stage, the three parent presentations will include:

- Pathways to a Healthy Mind: The keys to resilience, mental health, and wellbeing from early childhood onwards.
- Seven Secrets to a Healthy Mind.
- Understanding and Overcoming Anxiety in Kids: Having a Healthy Mind.

Professional learning



From next term, we are fortunate to be able to further enhance our EDI (explicit direct instruction) teaching model through the acquiring the services of educational consultant, Bronwyn Ryrie Jones. Bronwyn is an instructional coach in Responsive Teaching and Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI). Pedagogical approaches already being implemented at our MBPS. We have formed a partnership with two other schools in Ballarat to pool our collective resources and knowledge! Bronwyn will deliver Responsive Teaching Masterclass and five days of coaching and implementation support throughout the year. Also, working in classrooms with teachers to enhance their capacity.



Another example of our commitment to evidence-based best practice at MBPS. The staff and I will be completing a short course in the evenings through Latrobe University. SOLAR, La Trobe's Intermediate Science of Language and Reading short course is designed to support staff to

further develop the necessary skills and knowledge about reading instruction and intervention for all children. The content integrates information from linguistics, cognitive science and neuroscience to derive best practice for reading instruction and intervention with a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework.

School damage

Unfortunately, during the school holidays two cars entered the premises and rammed the shed/art room roller door. Vision of the incident was captured on CCTV and passed on to the local police. Nothing was taken from the premises. We are now left with a large bill to replace the roller door.

School Leaders 2023

At the end of last year, our Year 5 students presented their leadership speeches for School Captain and House Captain. This process requires a great deal of courage, which our students demonstrated in spades. They all spoke beautifully, and their passion and pride for the school was evident. The school leaders were then announced at the end of year school concert.

Our 2023 school captains:

School Captain-Thomas



School Captain-Abbey



Vice Captain-Julius



Vice Captain-Molly



Our 2023 house captains:

Coghill-Harry



Cavern-Chad



Bolton-Jack S



Bolton-Lily



Hollowback-Lori



School Council Nominations

School Councils play a key role in Victorian Government schools and being a member of the school council is a rewarding and challenging experience. Acting as a team, council supports the principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. (DET 2017)

There are many ways in which members of school councils support schools. These include participating in discussions about school vision and broad directions for the school, approving expenditure, reviewing and developing school policies, raising funds for school-related purposes, helping look after the school's grounds and buildings and creating interest in the school in the wider community.

School council meetings take place at approximately 7:15 pm on the third Thursday of each month. This equates to two meetings per term, or 8-9 meetings per year. Meetings conclude between 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm.

As of 8:30 am on Monday the 13th of February, we are calling for nominations for school council members. There are three parent positions, and two community positions open for nominations.

If you are interested in being a school council member or wish to nominate someone, please collect the appropriate nomination form from the school office. You may nominate someone or self-nominate. Please return the completed nomination form to the school office by 3:30 pm on Thursday 2nd March.

The new School Council will begin on Thursday 16th March meeting, after the Annual General Meeting.

Assemblies

Assemblies take place each Friday at approximately 3:00 pm. visitors are most welcome to attend. We hope you can join us!

Robert Walsh - Acting Principal



Prep

What a great start to the year the Preps have had!! We spent the first two days of school learning about classroom routines, school rules and good and bad choices. Then we jumped straight into our learning program for Term 1. In Spelling, we have been learning the letters and sounds 's' and 'a'. We have been learning how to say the sound and how to write the matching letter correctly.

In Writing, we have been practising writing our focus letters using the dotted thirds lines. We have also been practicing writing our name very neatly. We have been discussing sentences and how they need to be a complete thought that makes sense. We have even been finishing some sentence stems with our own ideas.

In Maths, we have been working on writing the numbers 1, 2 and 3. It is very important that Prep students learn to correctly form numbers to 10 in the first term of school. Practise makes permanent, so we want to be practicing correctly!!

Our wellbeing focus has been around how to make friends at school and what things we can do when we encounter problems when playing with our friends. Keep an eye out in the Ballarat Courier and the Creswick District News for our class Prep photo!

We are off to a great start in the Prep classroom and looking forward to lots of learning this term! 😊

Mrs Barendsen

Year 1/2

Welcome back to Term 1! The Year 1/2 s are full of energy and excited for the year ahead. The 1/2s are ready to learn and are curious about everything around them.

In Reading, we have been reading a range of fairy tales. We have learnt some new vocabulary words, such as displeases, curious, fortune and constant.

In Writing, we have written some stories based on pictures. We have been reviewing our handwriting and remembering where our letters sit on the dotted thirds.

In Maths we have gotten straight into our daily reviews and learning about Place Value. The 1/2s started their daily spelling lessons!

During wellbeing we have been learning about our emotions and being able to identify the early warning signs in our bodies.

Well-done everyone on such a positive start to the year.

Miss Allen and Miss McPherson 😊



Year 3/4 Newsletter Report

The Year 3/4 classroom have settled in well! The class is familiar with their new routines and learning is in full swing. In Maths, students have been revising concepts around place value which underpins every number operation. We have made a great start with Maths Mates. As part of their Maths lesson on Fridays, we unpack a selection of the more challenging problem-solving questions at the end of each Maths Mates sheet.

In Reading, we have started our whole class novel, 'The Witches' by Roald Dahl. This includes reading comprehension, new vocab words and has provided selected passages for our daily reading fluency practice.

In Writing, the class has been working on narrative writing. We have been focusing on including description about what the main character is feeling at the different stages of the story to make their writing more engaging.

Mr Nettelbeck

Year 5/6

Welcome back to school for 2023. It has been a great fortnight getting to know the new Year 5/6 students. Students have enjoyed catching up with friends after a long break for some. It has been great for me to start to get to know the year 5 students that I have never taught before and in class we have got back into the school structures and routines. In Reading, we have begun our class novel Wonder. There are a few students who have seen this movie previously, so it is a good text to use as a comparison from text to movie.

In Writing, we have been working on sentence structure and description. We have been creating narratives with create suspense and engagement in the reader.

In Maths, we have been revising place value, addition and subtraction. This is to build on the knowledge we know to solve more complex tasks as the year goes on.

Students in the senior school have a great responsibility to demonstrate leadership qualities and become positive role models to the rest of the school. They have begun the year on a positive and have done a wonderful job working with their prep buddies.

It has been a wonderful start to the year and I look forward to seeing what is to come.

Mrs Box ☺

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 Anita on 0466 698 703. The upcoming dates for playgroup are:

- **Term 1**
- Friday 24th February – 9.00am
- Friday 24th March – 9.00am
- **Term 2**
- Friday 28th April – 9.00am
- Friday 26th May – 9.00am
- Friday 26th June – 9.00am

PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Burrumbeet Races Clean Up

Blowhard Primary School were given the opportunity again this year to raise money for the school by cleaning up after the Burrumbeet Races on the 2nd of Jan. A massive thank you to Tim Stewart, Lorelle & Daina Griffin, the Kane, Kelly, Johnstone, McErlain & Charles families for volunteering their time, which raised \$500.



Burrumbeet Cup Community Bowl

A huge thank you to Jane McErlain for organising our participation in the Burrumbeet Cup Community Bowl. Through organising ticket sales for the Cup, and with a little luck on race day after drawing a favourable horse, Jane managed to raise around \$1500 for the school on New Year's day. Thanks also goes to those parents, families and friends who purchased their tickets from Jane. By all reports, it was a lovely and fun day.



Max Hamond & Musical Bingo at Hop Temple

Max Hamond – Wow! Simply Incredible!

Max again ran another Musical Bingo Night at Hop Temple on the 22nd of December whereby Mount Blowhard Primary School was nominated as the receiving charity. The night was extremely popular and as a result, Max raised around \$1025 for our school. We are so very grateful to Max and Hop Temple for their donations over the last couple of years.

P&F Meetings

The Parents and Friends Committee will hold their first meeting for the year on Wednesday the 15th of February at 2.30pm. We would love as many people to get involved as possible and invite existing and new parents, grandparents or guardians to come along. The P&F Committee organise social and fundraising activities to connect students, families and the community, and to provide additional resources and opportunities for the school that may not be possible otherwise. If you are interested in contributing time and ideas to the P&F Committee, please join us on the 15th of Feb, or contact Catherine Chibnall on Ph: 0437075112 if you have any questions.

Ride to School



We are excited to announce that Ride to School will commence for 2023 next Wednesday the 15th of Feb, and will continue on a weekly basis until the end of term 1. We encourage and welcome all students and parents to join in. People are welcome to run, ride or walk to school, starting at different landmarks, depending on age, personal preference and endurance level. We start from one of three landmarks:

- 8.10am Corner Learmonth-Sulky Road and Ryans Road.
- 8.20am The chook farm on Cricks Road.
- 8.30am The dog-leg bend in Crick's Road that can be seen from the school.

For anyone wanting to join in, please simply turn up each

Wednesday morning. It can be helpful at times to text ahead to let Liz Charles (Ph: 0413930269) know you are coming, so that we can wait for you if needed. We do not hold Ride to School if it is raining.

We look forward to seeing many bright and happy faces on Wednesday mornings throughout the term!

2023 DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 15th, Welcome Barbecue- 6.00pm -7.30pm

Friday 17th First Assembly for the year – 3.05pm

MARCH

Wednesday 1st Parent Teacher Interviews – 1.30pm to 6.00pm

Monday 13th Labour Day public holiday

Wednesday 15th NAPLAN commences for Years 3 & 5 Students

APRIL

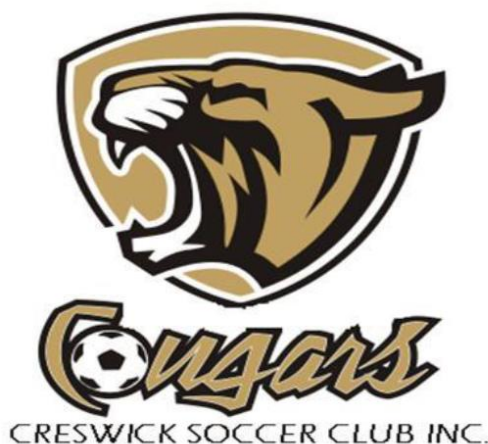
Wednesday 5th, Movie Night

Thursday 6th Last day of term-2:30 pm finish

Monday 24th First school day of Term 2

Tuesday 25th ANZAC Day – Public holiday

Wednesday 26th Athletics day - Llanberris



Creswick Soccer Club's junior training has started back!

Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm Miniroos (U12,U11,U10,U9,U8,U7's) at Doug Lindsay Reserve, Creswick

We are a friendly club with committed coaches and the best grounds in the District!

All past and new players welcome.

Contact : creswicksoccerclub@gmail.com or just turn up on the night!

OPEN HOUSE FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023
11AM - 3PM

@ your leisure activities

Yard Games

Giant Checkers, Giant Jenga, connect 4

Kids water play area

Explore the Former Free Lending Library

Chalk Challenge Footpath

Dance to the DJ!

Petting Zoo + Ponies

Explore an ambulance

Market stalls

Scheduled activities

Ukulele performance by Victoria

Craft time with CycleUp Gifts

Clay creatures with Rebecca

The Great Paper Aeroplane Race

Dunk Tank teachers, business
owners + others!

Plastic bag weaving with Mery

SoccerZone skills session

Raffle Draw

*check the facebook event page for scheduled times and updates



SCAN ME


Join the Facebook
Event for more
details

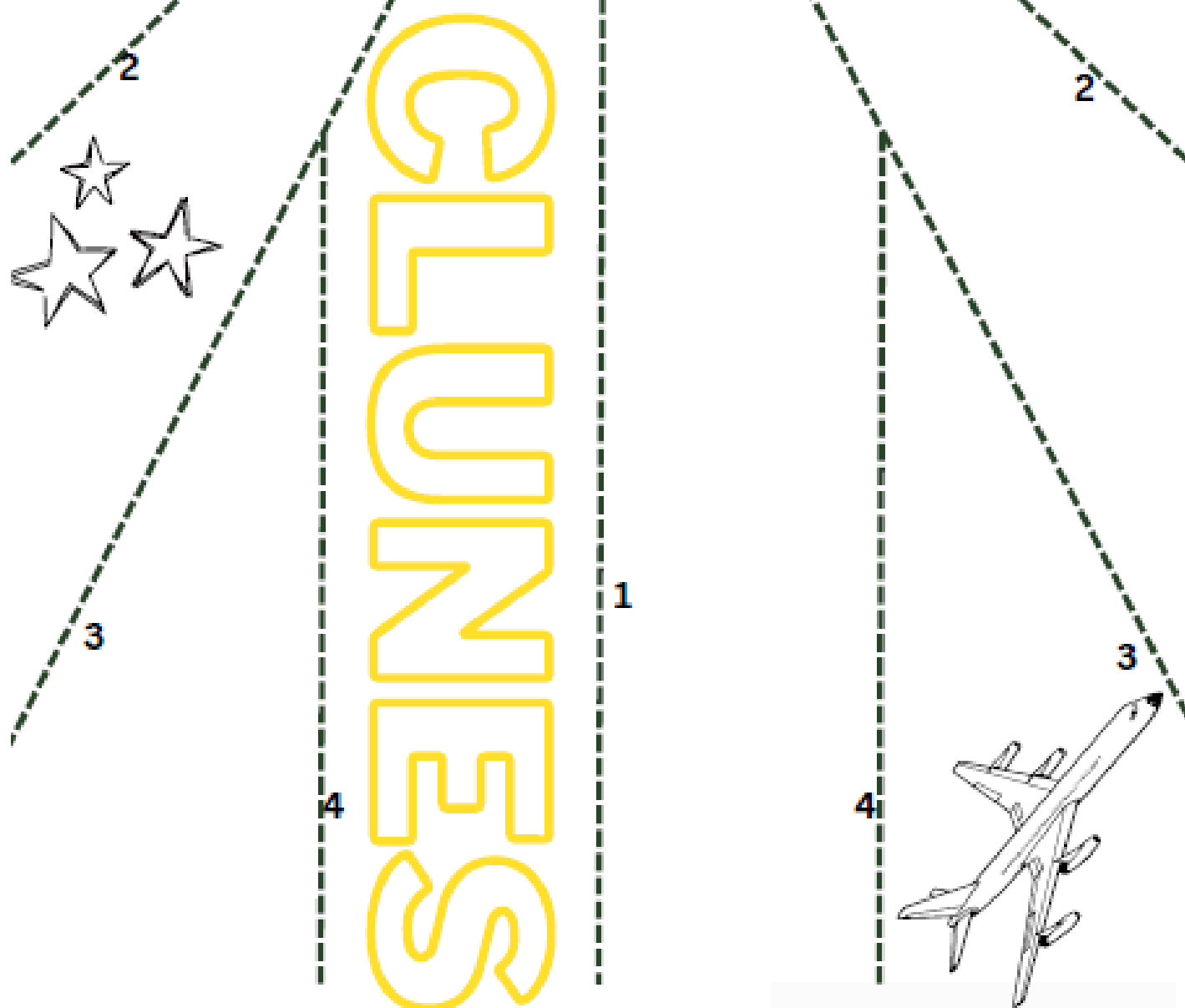
Free entry + loads of free activities

@ CLUNES FORMER FREE LENDING LIBRARY
NEW HOME OF CLUNES NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE!
6 TEMPLETON ST CLUNES

The Great Paper Aeroplane Race



- 
1. Colour in + decorate
 2. fold up
 3. bring to the event
 4. fly and win!



Join the Facebook
Event for more
details

OPEN HOUSE FAMILY FUN DAY
SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023 11AM - 3PM
6 TEMPLETON ST CLUNES