

# Quality Rural Education

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 3

26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

#### **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**



#### Movie Night

The annual MBPS Movie Night is always a fantastic evening. It's great value for money, and a lovely way to come together at the end of the term to enjoy a unique movie experience on the school grounds. The children have voted, with Wonka coming out in front for our 2024 Movie Night viewing!

#### **Reading Information Evening**

Last Thursday evening, Mrs Barendsen ran her annual information evening around how students learn to read and the program in the Prep classroom. As always, the session was extremely informative and gave those who attended the latest evidence-based information around how students learn to read and the 'why' and 'how' of instructional practices at MBPS. The teaching of reading has been a hot topic in the media of late, including a recently released paper from the Grattan Institute recommending approaches already in place at MBPS! It was great to have not only MBPS parents attend the evening, but also some teachers from other schools and educators from a local kindergarten. Thank you, Mrs Barendsen, for conducting the evening and Miss McPherson for looking after the toddlers and school children during this time.

#### **Reading Information Evening**

Last week we conducted one of several fire drills that are planned for annually in our Emergency Management Plan (EMP) On Friday, we familiarised the children with the off-site evacuation drill. For those who are not aware, should we have to leave the school grounds we make our way to Carmel Shelton's (a former staff member) property on Millers Road. This ensures we have access to toilets, water, shelter. In the coming weeks, a shelter in place fire drill will take place.

#### Management of COVID-19 in Schools

It is recommended that staff members, students or visitors who have symptoms of cold, influenza or COVID-19 undergo testing for COVID-19. Parents of symptomatic students should be asked to collect their child from school and keep them home until they are no longer symptomatic.

The Department of Health recommends that staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 isolate for a minimum of 5 days and do not attend school until their symptoms resolve. If well enough, students should be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury, with learning material provided to support their continued learning.

COVID Safe measures have changed but all Victorian government schools are required to continue to implement important practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Schools must continue to:

\*ensure air purifiers are in use

\*maximise external ventilation

\*encourage good personal hygiene

\*make face masks available for staff and visitors who wish to wear them.

#### School Leaders Report to School Council

#### Hello everybody,

It's Jack Powell and Daina Griffin here and it's already the third week and we have plenty to talk about. First of all, we had our annual welcome BBQ, and it was great to see plenty of families and friends attend. It was also great to see some of our new families come as well. It is amazing to see the new Prep class settling into the school already. They have Wednesdays off at the moment but will be full time after the long weekend. This year, we have a new Art teacher, Miss. Said, and a new Physical Education teacher, Mr. Cambus. We would like to welcome them to our school community. Miss. Said has taken each class for two art lessons so far and the year 5/6s have completed a colour wheel and a hot/cold colour piece. Mr. C was able to have two lessons with us older kids and we did long jump and many new games. Unfortunately, Mr. pulled a calf muscle when he is taking the 3/4s and he couldn't continue with the two younger classes. The 5/6s are going to Torquay on a surf camp from the 26th to the 28th of February. We will be attending three surfing lessons and we'll be sleeping in tents at the local Torquay holiday park. We can't wait! Some more news is that we now have five classes with the Year 3 students in a straight grade with Miss McPherson. We welcomed McPherson back after she went travelling. The old meeting room has been transformed into a classroom and looks amazing. The students in there love it!

#### **Tree Works**

Each year, the school obtains a thorough arborist report. As some of you might be aware, most of the trees on the grounds are cypress trees that are actually on Ballarat City Council land. As per the arborist report recommendations, we had some trees trimmed and felled over the weekend. These trees were too close to school structures (classrooms and the shade sail) or were in poor health. I have been in contact with the council, and they are in the process of organising the works recommended in the arborist report. This includes pruning many cypress trees and felling some.

#### **Ryder-Cheshire Foundation**

#### To our dear friends of the Mt Blowhard school community,

We were quite blown away to receive the wonderful donation to support the residents of Raphael in India! The amount you raised at the Walkathon was amazing, and you have so generously donated it to Ryder-Cheshire. What a day it was, I have heard! I'm sorry I missed it last year. It is always a surprise to see how the weather will turn out on Walkathon Day, and last year's was no exception! Well done, everyone. We will be in touch again soon. I will send the receipt after our next meeting. With my, and our committee's, best wishes for the rest of 2024. Thank you once again. Dorothy Dorothy Carpenter

Sponsorship Secretary

#### **Lunchtime Clubs**

Lunchtime Clubs have commenced, with Miss Said taking choir. A number of children from F-6 have been attending. The children have learnt about posture and breathing and have been singing along to 'Rip Tide'. Mr Cambus has commenced sport, with children enjoying the ever-popular dodgeball while listening to some beats!



#### Working Bees-Change of Date

Due to the school being allocated a Bunnings Barbecue slot on Sunday 21st April, there will be a change of date for the working bee previously scheduled for the same day.

- Term 2 working bee to be confirmed.
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July, term 3 working bee, 10:00 am-11:30 am.
- Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October, term 4 working bee, 10:00 am-11:30 am.

#### School preparations for the bushfire season

Each year, to prepare for bushfires and grassfires, schools and early childhood services complete a range of activities. The Department of Education runs an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 4) and are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). All schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR and Category 4 list will also close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. When the Bureau of Meteorology provides public fire danger rating



forecasts or fire weather warnings, they use fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries. Our school is in the **Central fire weather district**.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

#### What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 or Category 4 school. Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district.

#### What is the department's policy?

The department's <u>Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy</u> requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 list to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

#### When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in Central fire district.

Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by email and Facebook.

**Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, even if the weather forecast changes.** This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

#### What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is relocated or closed due to elevated fire danger or closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the <u>CFA's website</u>.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <u>https://emergency.vic.gov.au</u>
- Facebook (<u>https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency</u>)
- Twitter (<u>https://twitter.com/vicemergency</u>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

#### **Principal's Award**

**Penny Butler:** For the smile and enthusiasm she brings each day. **Archer Knight:** For using delightful manners.

#### **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 Robert Walsh - Acting Principal



#### **NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOM**

#### **Prep Newsletter Report**

We have had a fantastic fortnight of learning in the Prep classroom. In Reading, we have continued to read different nursery rhymes and discussed the events and interesting words within them. In Writing, we have been learning about nouns and finding them in sentences. We have also been learning to write our name using dotted thirds. In Maths, we have focussed on writing numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7. We have also been modelling those numbers using different materials. In Science, we continued to explore push and pull and different real-life examples. We tested using different forces to see the impact on an object. Students took home their first sound card this week so they can begin practising at home the letters and sounds we have learnt in class. I will be checking their progress each Friday as we are aiming for mastery (recall of letter name and sound in under 2 seconds).

#### Students of the fortnight:

**Lincoln** for working hard writing letters and numbers. **Clara** for always being quiet, organised and ready to learn.

**Mrs Barendsen** 

#### News from our 1/2 Classroom

The past two weeks have been just as jam-packed with learning and fun as the first! This fortnight, we've been exploring the fantastical realm of "The Magic Faraway Tree." We've encountered some truly hilarious characters and their wacky adventures, sparking our imaginations, and leaving us eager for more. Putting pen to paper, we channelled our inner storytellers and crafted narratives about Mr. Walsh and his... unforgettable parachuting experience. The creativity and humour on display were truly impressive! This fortnight, we have been exploring matter in our science unit. We've been delving into the properties of solids, liquids, and gases, and uncovering the exciting world that surrounds us. These past two weeks have been another testament to the incredible learning journey we're all on together. Keep those minds curious, keep those smiles bright, and get ready for even more exciting adventures in the weeks to come!

Miss Allen 😌

#### Students of the week:

Andy for his enthusiasm in Story Champs. Jimmy for promptly completing his spelling homework.

#### Year 3 Newsletter Report

It has been another productive fortnight in the Year 3 classroom! Time is absolutely flying. In Reading, we have just finished up our unit on The Wind in the Willows. The students were disappointed for it to be over. In Writing, student have been working on upgrading action and speaking verbs within a sentence. We have also been working on writing a narrative. We were very excited to have our 'document camera' arrive in the mail this week. This has greatly enhanced our sessions! In Maths, students continued to work with five-digit numbers and have worked very hard on learning to round numbers to the nearest, 10, 100 and 1000! In Science, students have been investigating forces, and enjoyed creating their own experiment based on their own question (see photos). A huge congratulations to all students for bringing in their Maths Mate homework each week and reading logs!

Miss McPherson 😂

#### Students of the week:

Joe for consistently challenging himself with his learning. Fletcher for his positive attitude towards his learning.



#### Year 4 Newsletter Report

It has been a productive fortnight in the Year 4 classroom. Our whole class novel is called 'Brown Girl Dreaming. It is a memoir with a series of free verse poems. It is set during the American civil rights movement in the 1960s, which has offered an interesting learning opportunity about some of the events that were happening in America at this time. In Writing, the class has been working on narrative writing with different focuses. An example of a writing focus is upgrading verbs to make writing more engaging. In Maths, we have been working on solving division problems that involve a remainder.

Students of the week: Sylvia and Brayden

#### Mr Nettelbeck

#### Students of the week:

Sylvia and Brayden for successfully tackling extension work in maths.

#### Year 5/6 Newsletter Report



Mrs Box has been busy preparing for beach camp and will be back with a classroom report next week.

Students of the week:

Daina and Jack J

#### **Positive Behaviour Super Star**



In assembly last week, teachers chose a student from their class to receive the Mt Blowhard Positive Behaviour Superstar Award. This award goes to a student who consistently demonstrates outstanding positive behaviour at school and is a role model for their peers. This student will receive the MBPS PB Superstar certificate and a small reward to share with a friend.

Students to receive the week 4 awards for demonstrating SAFETY were -Prep – Max G Years 1/2 – Charlotte M Year 3 – Evie B Year 4 – Ahren M Years 5/6 – Michelle M



#### Art

It has been so exciting to start teaching at Mount Blowhard Primary School this year. All grades have been exploring primary and secondary colours, specifically looking at the colour wheel, mixing colours, and learning about which colours are warm and cool. Students have started to apply this knowledge to bigger projects. The junior grades focusing on art projects inspired by books we have read, with the Prep students using primary and secondary colours to create a line drawing of Edward the Emu, and Year 1/2 students using oil and chalk pastels to create their own Arlo who needs glasses.

The Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 students are beginning to explore line work and perspective. Year 3/4 students are starting an art project inspired by Dora Ficher. The Year 5/6 students will start a cityscape watercolour piece focusing on ground view perspective once they are back from camp. We have had a fantastic start to our art program this term! **Miss Said** 

#### Chinese

In Chinese, the students have had a wonderful start to the term and enjoyed exploring the Chinese New Year celebrations. They have explored different aspects of Chinese culture, including the traditional Chinese clothing - Hanfu, handwriting  $\dot{\pi}$  Long and the Chinese folk dance-Koi fish. Foundation students made a Chinese character  $\dot{\pi}$  out of playdough, they were excited to learn the strokes of Chinese characters. Year 1/2 students made a paper fan and decorated it by writing the Chinese word  $\dot{\pi}$ . Senior students were very interested in studying their zodiac signs, and they are beginning to understand the personality traits of different zodiac signs. The students learned to say 'Happy Chinese New Year' in Chinese and they enjoyed playing the word-searching game.

#### We wish everyone good luck and good fortune for a happy Year of the Dragon!



#### ΡΕ

Embracing a Lifetime of Physical Activity: A Warm Welcome to Mt. Blowhard Primary School As I, Mr. 'C', stepped into the bustling halls of Mt. Blowhard Primary School, I was greeted by a wave of enthusiasm and energy that was truly contagious. It was a heartwarming experience to meet all the wonderful students, each brimming with their unique talents and passions. One thing that struck me during my time here is the school's commitment to fostering a culture of physical activity and wellness. This is not just about participating in sports for the sake of competition, but about instilling in our students the value of being active for life. Physical activity is a lifelong pursuit, one that goes far beyond the boundaries of the schoolyard. It's about developing healthy habits that will stay with us through adulthood, ensuring a better quality of life for years to come. I'm thrilled to be a part of the athletics program here at Mt. Blowhard Primary School. This program is not just about building athletic skills; it's about teaching our students the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. These are values that will serve them well both on and off the field. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff and students for welcoming me with open arms. I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you better and to embarking on this exciting journey of learning and growth together. Here's to a year filled with fun, friendship, and plenty of physical activity!

#### **Student Absentee Line**

#### Absentee Text Line: 0409 321 916

If your child is absent for any reason, please send the school a message using this text line. If you know in advance, feel free to send the text at any time – it doesn't have to be on the day. Text messages are automatically forwarded to classroom teachers and the school office. Thank you

#### **Mount Blowhard 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.

#### **Mount Blowhard Movie Night**

#### MOUNT BLOWHARD PS MOVIE NIGHT: WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 Calling for your support to help our school...and advertise your business!



On Wednesday 27<sup>h</sup> March, Mt Blowhard Primary School is running a movie night as a major fundraiser for our school. As this is a major fundraiser for us, we need your help and support. Do you know any businesses that would be willing to sponsor us? They can purchase an advertising slot, with their logo to be shown before the film starts, during the pre-credits, during interval, and at the end of the night. Entry advertising slots cost \$100. Businesses can also become a *Gold Sponsor* of the evening by contributing \$500 to the event. Gold Sponsorship will entitle the business to ongoing advertising throughout 2023 in the school newsletter, school Facebook page, the weekly whole school assembly, as well as constant advertising on the night of the event.

They can register their interest via the school email at <u>mount.blowhard.ps@education.vic.gov.au</u> or see Zelma and she can email out a letter and invoice.

#### **2024 DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR**

#### FEBRUARY

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> February, Year 5/6 Beach Camp

#### MARCH

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, Getting to Know You Interviews (2:00 pm-6:00 pm) Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, assembly Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, Labour Day public holiday Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, NAPLAN commences for Years 3 and 5 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, assembly Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, Movie Night Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, last day of term-2:30 pm finish

#### APRIL

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, Term 2 commences Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, Bunnings Fundraising BBQ Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, ANZAC Day public holiday Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, F-6 Athletics Day at Lllanberris Reserve (Ballarat)

MAY Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, Curriculum Day (pupil free)

#### **MOVIE NIGHT SPONSORS**

#### BOOK YOUR CAR IN NOW!!!

#### MBPS Movie Night: Wednesday 27th March

Please support our great Sponsors for the up-coming Movie Night to be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Without their support we could not run such events, so please consider them when purchasing goods.





# BOMBORA pots





#### **Bombora Pots for Every Plant**

Bombora Pots offers a range of contemporary planters for your courtyard, balcony and garden setting. We source the latest most stylish designs to keep a garden in full bloom and looking good all year round.







Ballarat Vac and Pumping Solutions is the region's leading provider of professional vac and pumping solutions in Ballarat and surrounding areas. With applications ranging from gutter vacuum cleaning to non-hazardous drain pit evacuations, water tank cleaning, roof cavity removal(blow-in insulation removal), EPA liquid waste removal and much more. We offer a full line of services for all your pumping needs. There is no limit to our capabilities.







We are the preferred contractor for our local council and leading private schools as we are fully insured and have all safety accreditations. Our specifically designed Wet and Dry truck-mounted vacuum takes care of not only leaves and debris, but also the mud and water that lay in the bottom of the gutter which causes rust and long –term damage to your household gutter system. Importantly, we leave no mess because our specially designed system takes all the waste away.



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# MOUNT BLOWHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

527 Millers Road, Blowhard 3352



### Term 1 School Tours

## Are you considering school options for a 2025 Prep student?

We have lots to offer! Come and see our evidence based best practice teaching in action.





### Have you seen our virtual school tour?

Visit our Facebook page or school website to view it. Mon 25th March 2:30pm

Tues 26th March 9:15am

Wed 27th March 9:15am

Book online via our website

Can't make those dates? Let us know via the booking link and we will contact you to make another time



http://www.mountbhps.vic.edu.au/



(03) 5334 6354



Find us on Facebook! @mountblowhardps

mount.blowhard.ps@education.vic.gov.au



#### We're not too far away!



7 - 10 minutes from Learmonth, Creswick, Clunes and Windermere



Less than 15 minutes from Alfredton, Lucas and Cardigan

#### Are you looking for quality education for your child, with individual attention and a warm welcoming environment?

Rest

Mount Blowhard Primary School is a rural school 6kms north of Miners Rest. In 2024, we have 5 classrooms and 80 students. We focus on the core subjects of reading, writing, spelling and maths as they lay the foundation for a successful transition to secondary school. Students also experience a rich and diverse curriculum, including Science, Art, Chinese and Physical Education, as well as a huge range of quality extra-curricula activities, sport and community events. We enable every child to reach their potential and to grow and flourish socially, academically and physically.

> For more information or to watch our school tour video, visit us at our website http://www.mountbhps.vic.edu.au/ or our Facebook page.



http://www.mountbhps.vic.edu.au/

(03) 5334 6354

mount.blowhard.ps@education.vic.gov.au



MBPS offers after school care https://www.oshclub.com.au/



# NOMINATE US TODAY

## AS PART OF THE RITCHIES COMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM and help us generate extra funds.



Foster Care is about creating a safe space for children in our community. And we don't need superheroes, just everyday people who care.



TAKE THE FIRST STEP Visit cafs.org.au or call 1800 692 237



## We are having a

, MOVIE NIGHT

To raise money for our great school and our amazing extra curricular activities Mount Blowhard Primary School will be holding a Drive-in Movie Night with a BBQ tea on Wednesday 27th March.

People will be able to enjoy the movie while relaxing in their vehicles or bring along deck chairs and picnic rugs to soak up the atmosphere up the front on the grass. We'd love to see all school families and friends come along and join in on the fun.

> WHEN: WEDNESDAY THE 27TH OF MARCH 2024 GATES OPEN AT 6PM. BBQ TEA FROM 6.30PM MOVIE TO COMMENCE AT DUSK (APPROXIMATELY 8PM).

**PRICE:** \$30 PER CAR. TO SECURE A TICKET PLEASE CONTACT THE MBPS OFFICE. PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF VEHICLE YOU WILL BE DRIVING TO HELP WITH PLANNING CAR PARKING ARRANGEMENTS ON THE NIGHT.

**BBQ:** \$2.50 PER SAUSAGE OR \$3.00 PER HAMBURGER. VEGETARIAN OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT THE SAME PRICE. THERE WILL ALSO BE LOLLIES, POPCORN, ICE CREAMS AND DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BEFORE THE MOVIE AND DURING THE INTERMISSION.

All funds raised will go towards equipment, resources and future events for the school.

# YEAR 7 2025 TRANSITION

# **KEY DATES & INFORMATION**

TUESDAY

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 3

THURSDAY

THURSDAY

TUESDAY

FRIDAY

NOVEMBER 28

DECEMBER 10

**JANUARY 31 2025** 

CTOBER 17

MARCH 5 @ 5.30PM

INFORMATION NIGHT & SCHOOL TOURS

2025 PREPARATION EVENING

AFTERNOON TEA & SCHOOL TOURS

EARLY BIRD ORIENTATION DAY

TRANSITION DAY

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL





### SECONDARY COLLEGE

## **CONTACT US**

453 - 457 Forest Street Wendouree, Victoria 3355

(03) 5336 7804

mount.rowan.sc@education.vic.gov.au

PLEASE ATTEND OUR INFORMATION NIGHT IN MARCH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US IN 2025!

RVSP to our school email address