

## MOUNT BLOWHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No 7

29<sup>th</sup> May 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



#### Healthy Minds

Thank you, Dr Tom Nehmy (Healthy Minds), for hosting a thought provoking and practical session around anxiety. The session was very well attended, including a few family members from outside of our immediate school community. What a great opportunity for the community to access your expertise. I am sure those who attended took something from the session, both for themselves and their children.

### School Leaders Report to School Council

We know it has been a while since your last meeting so we would like to recap how we finished off term 1. We had cross country, where students from years 3-6 travelled to Learmonth and ran either 2 or 3 km. Everyone did a great job on the day, especially those kids who made it onto the next level. Thanks to Mrs McErlain for organising the event.

The next week we had the Movie Night, it was great to see all the families and community members there. Well done to P&F for organising. We particularly loved the food stand, oh and the movie was good too!

Then it was the last day of term and we got to come to school in casual clothes and have a lunch order. We all searched around the yard on the lookout for yummy easter eggs! Thanks to our easter bunny for the day, Mr Walsh! After holidays we were straight back to it! Us leaders went to Creswick and took part in the Anzac Day ceremony. We read a poem, in fact we reread it again at our ANZAC Day assembly.

We welcomed 4 new students to the school this term. 1 in prep, 1 in the year 3/4 class and 2 in the 5/6 class. It's always great to have some new faces around.

In week 2, students from year 3-6 travelled into Selkirk stadium and took part in a basketball clinic. Half of the clinic sessions were learning how to play wheelchair basketball. It was heaps of fun for us spinning around and racing in wheelchairs.

As always, all classes have been learning heaps. In our class we have already finished our first-class novel and are on to learning about the age of exploration. It's pretty good!

We are looking forward to interschool basketball and soccer, camps starting and our dream seeds incursion next week and the whole school visit to the art gallery!

## Annual Report to the Community

The Annual School Report is a summary of school progress over the previous year. The Report briefly outlines the general operation of the school, then comments on the Student Achievement, Engagement and Wellbeing, and on school Productivity (resourcing).

There is much to be proud of at Mount Blowhard Primary School. The annual report can be accessed from the school website or the general office.

## Years 4-6 Attitudes to School Survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing, and quality instruction, and are conducting a survey to find out what children in Years 4-6 think of our school.

The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist our school to gain an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Students will be asked about their thoughts and feelings in relation to their school, their learning, peer relationships, bullying and life in general.

Children will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. The survey will be conducted during the first week of June.

## Art Gallery

The whole school enjoyed an art appreciation and print making session at the Ballarat Art Gallery. Such a great opportunity, that was both local and of no cost to families. The children were so respectful of the space and engaged in the print making process. The Years 3-6 children perfected the 'gallery walk and pose'. Thank you, Mrs. Ackland, for organising the experience.



## 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

**Max Kelly** for his thoughtful insights and input at the art gallery excursion.

**Seth Wilson-Stratton** for his observations and insights at the art gallery.

**Robert Walsh - Acting Principal**



### Prep

Another wonderful fortnight in the Prep classroom has flown by. In Spelling, we finished off learning all the single sounds for the letters in the alphabet. The students are very excited to see what we will be learning next.

In Reading, we focussed on two text-based units. The first was 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark'. We read a non-fiction text about owls to help us understand why being scared of the dark was not the usual thing for a baby owl. The next text unit was 'Hey, Little Ant'. We did lots of learning about ants so we could decide if the boy in the book should or should not squish the ant.

In Maths, we have been learning about ordinal numbers, the days of the week and how to order numbers. We have completed lots of assessment this past week in preparation for reports, with a few more assessments to get done this week.

The Prep students thoroughly enjoyed learning how to print at the Art Gallery. Thanks to Mrs Ackland for organising such a great excursion.

#### **Students of the Week:**

**John** for his wonderful ideas in response to our reading unit.

**Harley** for jumping straight into learning each day and showing lots of resilience.

**Mrs Barendsen**

### News from our 1/2 Classroom

Happy Monday everybody! Welcome to another week of learning and laughter. Last week we spent some time working on the iPad completing some quizzes for Maths and there has been one-on-one assessments to assess Literacy. Students have been very considerate of one another, staying nice and quiet to allow for high concentration! It has been great seeing the students' growth through assessments recently.

This week we will be exploring fractions in Maths. We have explored how shapes can be broken into half and will explore quarters and eights in the near future.

In Literacy we are starting our new topic- all about the human body! It has already sparked some great class discussions and rich questions. Over the fortnight, we will explore the following vocabulary words. I encourage you to invite these words into conversation as much as you wish!

- *systems – support – voluntary – digestion – nerves – diseases – nutritious – balanced diet –*

We had a great time at the Ballarat Art Gallery on Wednesday. There were some great observations made on the artwork we explored, and even created some incredible art pieces!

**Reminder:** The weather has cooling down quickly. Please ensure your child is coming to school with a well labelled jumper to rug up as much as possible!

#### **Students of the week**

**Alice J** for her ongoing wonderful initiative both in the classroom and schoolyard.

**Oliver** for showing great organisation by remembering his morning jobs everyday!

Have a great week ahead!

**Miss Allen** 😊





## Year 3/4 Newsletter Report

It has been a busy fortnight in the Year 3/4 classroom, and being mid-term the class is now in full swing. Our visit to the Ballarat Art Gallery to view their current exhibition was inspiring. My class spent time viewing the landscape paintings, where they had to 'step into the frame' and share what they saw, heard or felt.

In Writing, we have been focusing on a range of writing skills. On Thursday, students had to plan and then write a single descriptive paragraph about their own choice of a print of a landscape painting. This was a similar activity to what they had done at the art gallery, but with a written response.

Maths assessments have taken up quite a bit of maths time this week. However once done, I shared some of the types of questions that students found especially challenging. We discussed different ways to solve or approach each problem. Many students reflected that they knew the content, but were just thrown by slightly different wording or the layout used in the assessments – an easy fix!

### **Students of the week:**

**Cayden** for slowing down when writing which has significantly improved his handwriting.

**Morgan** for her fluent expressive reading.

**Mr Nettelbeck**

## Year 5/6

It was an eventful fortnight in the senior school this fortnight!

At the beginning of the fortnight the House Captains ran indoor afternoon house activities for the whole school. Students from Prep – 6 enjoyed games like musical chairs and bobs and statues, drawings and just dance to name a few. Well done to the House Captains, it is always a tough job to present and run an event for your peers!

On Monday, Students in 5/6 enjoyed a wellbeing session from the local group Dream Seeds. In this session students explored resilience, aspirations and connections in their lives. This program is essentially aimed at year 6 students and preparing them for their transition to Secondary School. A big thanks to the Dream Seeds organisers for running the session.

Last Wednesday, selected class representatives from the senior room took part in an interschool netball tournament at Selkirk Stadium. These students represented our school with pride and respect throughout these games, showing sportsmanship and determination. The group was lucky enough to win all matches and progressed to the finals. After a huge win in the semis, we made it to the grand final where we battled it out to overtime. MBPS fought it out to the end and lost by the smallest of margins! A huge well done to the group.

Students who chose not to be a part of the Netball were lucky enough to attend the Art Gallery in Ballarat. I heard great reviews on the day and the students enjoyed taking part in print making.

This Friday 12 students from 5/6 will attend the interschool soccer tournament in Wendouree. Good luck to all students on Friday!

### **Students of the week:**

**Thomas** for being a determined and enthusiastic learner. For giving 100% effort into everything he does! Well done, Thomas!

**Michelle** for being a wonderful team player! Willing to change positions or volunteering to have a game off at netball!

**Mrs Box** 😊







## SANDPIT TOYS

The students wondered if anyone has old toy trucks, cars or any sandpit toys at home they no longer need and are happy to donate to the school sandpit please.

If you happen to be out 'OP Shopping", please keep an eye out for some trucks and Toys.

We would be VERY grateful for any donations.



## 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 2

- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June – 9.00am



## 2023 DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

### JUNE

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Year 5/6 Urban Camp  
 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly  
 Monday 12<sup>th</sup>, King's Birthday public holiday  
 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Playgroup – 9.00am  
 Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> School reports emailed home.  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Assembly  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Last day of term. Early finish-2:30 pm.

### JULY

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Term 3 commences.



**Term 2 Reading Goal**  
**32 nights**  
**by Monday Week 9**

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What to grow this season

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