

MOUNT BLOWHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No 9

17th July 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

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy a break and some winter activities. I spent a lot of time at the aquatic centre with my children, feeding the swans and playing on the playground at Lake Wendouree and heading to Melbourne to see the Dons have a couple of wins.

COVID Guidelines

As we continue to move towards the cold and flu season, I thought I would just provide a reminder of the COVID guidelines that have been in place since January of this year. Previously, the COVID guidelines provided to schools was approximately 30 pages in length, it is now 3 pages.

COVID positive cases

Students who report a positive result are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved. Students who isolate as a result of a positive COVID-19 test should be supported in the same way as students with an extended absence due to illness or injury.

Parents or carers should complete the Student COVID-19 [COVID Test Portal](#) if a student tests positive to COVID-19 (via a PCR or rapid antigen test). Where a parent/carer informs the school by phone or written notification, the school should complete the Schools COVID Case Management System.

Infection prevention and control

All staff, students and visitors to schools should practise good hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. Staff should direct or supervise young students where required.

As a school we actively promote preferred hygiene practices, provide and use hand sanitiser and have air purifiers and each learning space.

Face masks

Staff and students who wish to wear a face mask should be supported to do so, and schools should continue to make face masks available for staff, students and visitors.

The Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 when leaving home.

Additionally, the Department of Health recommends that masks should be worn by a person who has COVID-19 for at least 7 days after a positive test when they need to leave home.

Professional learning

Late last term, we commenced our professional learning journey with Educational Consultant-Bron Ryrie Jones. Ultimately, building our capacity to be the best educators we can for the children of MBPS. We collaborated with Canadian Lead Primary School and Mount Pleasant Primary School to embed responsive teaching routines. The room

was full of expertise and positive energy as we revisited the science of how we learn, and current evidence based best teaching practices. This is a year-long collaboration, and we look forward to having everyone at MBPS next term. This continues our commitment to evidence based best practice and professional learning to enhance our capacity.

Planning days

Towards the end of each term, CRTs (Casual Relief Teachers) and I take classes to enable the Years F-2 and Years 3-6 Planning Days to take place.

Planning Days occur at the end of each term and ensure staff are resourced with dedicated and privileged time to develop the reading and math units the students engage with each term. This also ensures a thoroughly sequenced and planned curriculum is implemented across the school.

As part of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement, staff are allocated one day out of the classroom each semester to complete work related to their duties. Last term, many teachers used this time to complete 1:1 assessment with students.

On these days, we are fortunate to have such reliable and capable CRTs to continue the classroom programs in place. Also ably supported by our wonderful educational support staff.

Clubs

Lunchtime Clubs have commenced for another term! Board games today. The kids had a great time. Thank you, Mr. Nettelbeck! Art/Craft Club will also continue with Mrs. Ackland.



Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre (for the relief of suffering)



Last term, I was fortunate enough to present at the Ryder Cheshire Australia Biennial Conference. Mount Blowhard Primary School being one of three schools in the Ballarat area that sponsor a child and support the Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre.

I provided an overview of our involvement and a presentation of images from our annual Mount Hollowback. Ryder Cheshire expressed their gratitude for our support, mentioned what a wonderful community event it is and how grateful they are that we donate all monies raised (generally around \$700), even though the cost of sponsoring Sushma is less than \$100. The additional funds support the Raphael Ryder Cheshire International Centre.

Sushma has a severe intellectual disability and is in a pre-vocational class at Raphael. She is being trained in daily living skills, social and communication skills and some functional academic skills. She has an older sister who is pursuing the teacher training programme at Raphael.



Raphael, the Ryder-Cheshire Home in India

Raphael is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the Ryder-Cheshire mission *for the relief of suffering without discrimination.*

Vision

To alleviate human suffering by providing relief and rehabilitation facilities to those in need and to be a model centre of excellence in the chosen fields.

Mission and Service

The mission without discrimination is to provide relief in the fields of: Cured Leprosy, intellectual disabilities and TB. The services provide relief and rehabilitation to those in need irrespective of caste, creed, or religion.

RCA Biennial Conference Pictorial Report

Photography by Rick Youssef



Dorothy and David registration table duties with RCFV Mike, Kathy and Ian



Setting Up - Rory, Terry, Dianne and Stuart online from Mount Gambier



Joe MC, Ballarat Mayor Cr Des Hudson and Dianne BSG President



Graeme NSW listening intently



Book Week

As I have three children of my own, I appreciate Book Week costumes do require some organisation. As a result, I just wanted to give plenty of notice! Additionally, we will be combining the annual Book Week parade with a Grandparents morning. However, all family members are welcome!

On Tuesday 22nd August the annual Book Week parade will take place in the school gymnasium. Grandparents and guests are invited to view the parade from 9:30 am to 10:00 am. Between 10:00 am-11:00 am, students will return to their classrooms and grandparents and guests are invited to join them. At 11:00am there will be a morning tea for grandparents and guests.

Art Show

This year, the MBPS Art Show will take place during Term 4. Mrs. Ackland will be co-ordinating the event and has commenced planning. The Art Show (odd years) alternates with the School Production (even years). This sequence was a little disrupted by the events of COVID.

Buildings and Grounds

Through Aussie Greenmarks, we have recently had all lighting in the classrooms and administration building replaced and upgraded to LED at no cost.

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

Finn Darbyshire: For doing his very best and taking pride in his work.

Reuben Humm: For listening carefully and working diligently.

Robert Walsh - Acting Principal

Prep

It was a great first week of Term 3 in the Prep classroom!

In Spelling, we have started learning that two letters can work together to make one sound like in 'ch' and 'wh'.

In Reading, we have been learning all about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.

In Maths, we started working on seeing ten numbers as a group of 10 with some more added on.

In Science, we have started our topic about living things. We began an experiment where we are going to give one plant water and light, another plant just water, another plant just light and the last one we will give nothing to. We are excited to see what happens.

This week was also our first school swimming lesson. All the students did a wonderful job of getting themselves organised and listening to their swimming teacher.

Students of the Week:

Finn for his persistence during swimming lessons.

Mrs Barendsen

News from our 1/2 Classroom

Welcome to Term 3! We hope you all had wonderful school holidays and are just as excited as we are for Semester 2.

We have started the Term with our Indigenous Unit: *Our Land, Our Stories*. Our classroom has been reading about the families and cultural traditions of First Nations children from all over Australia and the Torres Strait Islands. Students have had some very insightful questions and there have been lots of discussions. In our classroom, there are some text pieces that students can take home to read. I encourage you all to have these conversations at home as well.

It has been a great start to the term, reviewing the maths skills students have learned in Term 1. Students practiced their place value skills by playing a game called *Make-Say-Write*. Later in the week, while some lights were being replaced in our classroom, students reviewed their take-away strategies in the meeting room.

Students started the Swimming program last week. It was very impressive to see many of the 1/2 students stepping up and becoming role models to the Preps. Some of them had never been to the Aquatic Centre before!

Looking forward to yet another great term ahead, full of positive attitudes toward learning as well as heaps of fun!

Students of the week

Alice B for her fantastic listening and organisation during our swimming program.

Miss Allen 😊





Year 3/4 Newsletter Report

The students in the Year 3/4 classroom are straight back into our familiar routines and learning humming along nicely. We have started reading a series of texts about famous indigenous Australians. We used the text about Adam Goodes, a celebrated AFL footballer, for our fluency text that the students read aloud to their table partner every day.

In Writing, students used a thesaurus to lookup and select more interesting descriptive words to improve sentences. Having tried the 'old-school' way of using a thesaurus book, we then used iPads to efficiently practice the same task. In Maths, we have been focusing on division, by solving problems where there is a remainder.

Students of the week:

Jack C for his simile that described the wind as a wolf howling at the full moon.

Molly for her simile that described a dragon's eye as a pool of hot burning flames.

Matthew for correctly using a writing skill that he had previously learned, to describe a character.

Mr Nettelbeck

Year 5/6 Newsletter Report

Welcome back to term 3! It has been great seeing the year 5/6 students get straight back into the swing of things. We welcome Miss Van Gaans, who is a preservice teacher from Federation University completing her final placement. She will be here for the next 5 weeks.

In Literacy, we have been reading a range of non-fiction readings about influential indigenous people. We have read about the Frontier Wars and what is it like for indigenous people growing up today. We have begun turning what we have read into an information report.

In Maths, students have worked hard to find the volume of composite shapes by using the formula length x width x height. Everyone did a really good job at that!

A huge shout out to the 3-6 students who did an amazing job getting ready for swimming, their behaviour at swimming and then getting changed afterwards. Well done guys!

I look forward to seeing parents for interviews tomorrow.

Students of the week:

Molly for coming back from holidays engaged, positive and ready to learn. Well done Molly!

Mrs Box 😊

PARENTS & FRIENDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Come Join Us!

If you would like to join the P&F Committee, to help with school fundraising, organisation of social events and extra curricula activities, as well as getting to know other school families, please come along to our next meeting. Meetings are held at the school on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Catherine Chibnall on Ph 0437075112.

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 3

- Friday 21st July – 9.00am
- Friday 25th August -9.00am
- Friday 15th September – 9.00am

Term 4

- Friday 20th October – 9.00am
- Friday 17th November - 9.00am
- Friday 15th December – 9.00am

2023 DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

Tuesday 18th Parent and Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 19th Parent and Teacher Interviews
Thursday 20th School Council
Friday 21st Playgroup – 9.00am
Friday 28th Assembly

AUGUST

Friday 11th Assembly
Thursday 17th Last swimming session for years F-2
Thursday 17th School Council
Friday 18th School Photos
Tuesday 22nd Book Week Parade & Grandparents' morning
Friday 25th Playgroup – 9.00am.
Friday 25th Assembly

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 7th Last swimming session for years 3-6
Friday 8th Assembly
Friday 15th Playgroup – 9.00am.
Friday 17th last day of Term 3 – 2.30pm finish

OCTOBER

Monday 2nd Term 4 commences
Friday 20th Playgroup – 9.00am.

NOVEMBER

Friday 17th Playgroup – 9.00am.

DECEMBER

Friday 15th Playgroup – 9.00am.