Principal’s Report

Stranger Danger
There have been two reported incidents of strangers in other local schools over the last week. All of our teachers have spoken to the classes about ‘Stranger Danger’ and the need to be aware and safe. We have reinforced the following procedures:

⇒ Students should only play in the designated school area where we can see them. This includes after school.
⇒ Children should never go with a stranger.
⇒ Always tell an adult if someone or something worries/frightens you.
⇒ If students, parents or staff see any unauthorised person or a person acting suspiciously in or around the school grounds, please report it to the school office or the police.
⇒ Younger students go to the toilet in pairs.

Please reinforce safety procedures to your children also.

Issues and concerns
As a mum and a teacher I know that at times children have concerns and become anxious about all sorts of things, such as friends, the monkey bars, lunch orders, not having their favourite toy, something new at school, being late, who’s picking them up, or not liking the food in their lunch box! It’s a normal part of their growth and development. Working out ways to overcome issues is part of life and assists in building resilience. We take children’s concerns seriously and try to help them find solutions, knowing that what they learn will assist them with the next problem. Talking through problems with your child and working on alternatives and compromises is very beneficial in building their emotional intelligence. If issues are of greater concern or more complex please talk to the classroom teacher, Carrie Rowe or myself so that we can assist. If it is a friendship issue please talk to the staff first rather than approach another child directly.

Naplan Testing
Years 3 and 5 are completing National literacy and numeracy testing between May 10 – 13th. The National assessments cover mathematics, reading, writing, spelling and grammar conventions. Any child who is absent on these days can complete the test on Friday morning. It is important to note that these tests are only one form of assessment and show student performance at a moment in time. Classroom teachers are continually monitoring and assessing students throughout the year so that they have a greater understanding of each child’s strengths and plan a curriculum to build upon student skills. Results from the Naplan testing are distributed to families in August and schools will use the diagnostic data to further inform curriculum planning.

New student reporting process
The Victorian Education Department has changed the student reporting process this year. Schools are now allowed to redesign the student achievement report and how we report to parents. We have taken notice of parent feedback and now is our opportunity to produce a new written student report which is more personalised, identifies achieved student learning goals and future learning.

Parent/Student/Teacher interviews will also be altered during this transition year. More time will be allocated for each student, then parents/teachers only for further conversation/interview, with time divided so that firstly the student can share their learning journey and interviews will be held in the last week of term. Parent interviews will be booked online this year using a new program. We are excited about these new changes. More information to come in future weeks.

Enrolments
I have completed many school tours so far this year and already we have students enrolled for 2017 and 2018. If you know of any family who lives within our designated neighbourhood area with a child ready for school in 2017, please ask that they contact us to complete enrolment forms by the end of term 2.

Open Day
Education Week is from May 16-20th. To celebrate student learning at Mt Duneed we will be having an Open Day, including a picnic lunch and open classrooms. This is an ideal time for parents to learn about their child’s classroom program and for new families to learn more about our school.

The program for the day is as follows;
• 9:00am – 11am School Tours, to be led by senior students
• 1:30pm Picnic Lunch with parent and friends
• 2:30pm Open classrooms

THRASS Information night
Mrs Rowe is presenting a Parent Information night to explain the school’s THRASS word study program on Tuesday May 17th between 7-8pm. If you haven’t already attended one of these workshops, I recommend that you do as it explains the types of sounds that the English language has and how to break words into sounds; which will assist you at home with your child’s reading and writing.

A Mart – Community Rewards
Vee McGlade has arranged for Mt Duneed Regional Primary School to be included in the Community Rewards program at A Mart sports store in the Waurn Ponds shopping centre. Any sports purchase that you make in the store earns our school dollars, which can be spent on sports equipment. So if you need to buy more footy socks, a netball, basketball gear etc., consider A Mart and mention our school. Every bit of money will assist in building up our school sports equipment collection.

Thanks
A big thank you to the parents who organised such a successful Mothers’ Day stall last Friday. It was lovely to see the joy and excitement of the students as they selected that special beautifully wrapped present for their mum. As a bonus, the Mothers’ Day stall also raised funds for our school. Hopefully we will have some parents offer to organise a Fathers’ Day stall in September.

Julie Makin

Successful Grant for Maths Equipment
We have recently been pleased to receive a $2000 Youth Grant from the organisation called ‘Geelong Connected Communities’. As our school’s maths curriculum coordinator, Mrs Grant applied for this grant to help purchase further maths equipment for our school and particularly for our Family Math Night later this year. The Youth Grant has a particular emphasis on supporting programs that help to develop our younger residents in our community. For further information about the Geelong Connected Communities you can go to http://www.geelongconnectedcommunities.com.au/

NOTES SENT HOME

Listed below are notes that will be or have been sent home over the last week:
• Yr 1&2 Marine Discovery Centre excursion form- all Yr 1&2 students.
Contact your child’s teacher if you have not received the appropriate notes listed above.
EVENT CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 10th—</td>
<td>NAPLAN TESTING, Yr 3 &amp; 5 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 12th May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 11th May</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS OVERDUE!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 13th May</td>
<td>• All Application for Yr 7 placement 2017 forms due back at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 5/6K Science Day @ Grovedale College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Whole school assembly, 3:00pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 16th May</td>
<td>Education Week starts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 17th May</td>
<td>THRASS parent information workshop, 7-8pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 18th May</td>
<td>• MDRPS OPEN DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◊ School Tours 9:00am—11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◊ BYO Picnic Lunch 1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◊ Open Classrooms, 2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Finance Committee meeting, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• School Council meeting 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 19th May</td>
<td>Yr 3&amp;4 excursion to the Wool Museum. 9:30am-3:20pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 20th May</td>
<td>• School Captains @ Student Leadership Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Prep Healthy Breakfast incursion, 8:25am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 27th May</td>
<td>5/6L Science Day @ Grovedale College, 9:30am-1:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 7th Jun</td>
<td>Final session Sporting Schools Yr Prep-2 Soccer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 9th Jun</td>
<td>Final session Sporting Schools Yr 3-6 Soccer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 10th Jun</td>
<td>• Yr 1&amp;2 Marine Discovery Centre excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Whole school assembly, 3:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 13th Jun</td>
<td>QUEENS BIRTHDAY—NO SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 15th Jun</td>
<td>• Finance Committee meeting, 7:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• School Council meeting 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 17th Jun</td>
<td>End of Term 2 Special Lunch Day, information to come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 24th Jun</td>
<td>• END OF TERM 2. Whole school assembly @ 12:30pm. Dismissal @ 1:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 11th Jul</td>
<td>Term 3 begins for all students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 22nd Jul</td>
<td>5/6B Science Day @ Grovedale College, 9:30am-1:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

PrepG
Maddison Hamilton— for working hard at school and home to learn her letters and sounds.  
Jack Dillon— for working hard to learn how to write the letters in his name correctly. Great job Jack!

PrepH
Miah Walsh— for always trying her hardest at school and being a positive class member. Great work Miah!  
Zac Ashton— for being nice to everyone and always helping others in need. Well done Zac!

1/2H
Reuben Gray— for being helpful and kind when peer conferencing.  
Logan Belleville— for always being a responsible and considerate member of our class.

1/2K
Kitt Van Dreven— for achieving her writing goal.  
Jack Bloink— for achieving his reading goal.

1/2L
Maggie O'Loughlin— for always being a polite and hardworking student.  
Khail Cruse— for doing such a fantastic job with his reading this week.

1/2M
Charlotte Thomas— for working hard to write a fantastic narrative titled 'The Big Disaster".  
MacKlin Pritchett— for a fantastic attitude towards learning in maths.

3/4C
Jessica Ladhams— for being a friendly and helpful class member.  
Jay Parker— for contributing ideas to class discussions.

3/4G
Madi Thomas— for progressing to long-vowel sounds in spelling.  
Shae Bentley— for an amazing effort and results at Athletics Day— in his events, 800m & relay team.

3/4K
Lily Churchill— for working well in teams.

3/4L
Gianna Cruse— for recording her thinking on post-it notes when reading.

5/6B
Nicholas Raeburn— for persisting in his narrative writing and finishing in the time set.  
Emma Kenyon— for being such a mature and helpful member of the class.

5/6K
Zarli Williams— for demonstrating excellent commitment to learning and showing enthusiasm and positivity every day!  
Ella Wilkinson— for achieving personal goals to write an excellent persuasive text. Well done Ella!

5/6L
Taylah Webb— for being such a conscientious student and trying your best at all times. Keep up the great work!  
Indy Kos— for experimenting with new and exciting language in your writing.

‘Artist of the Week’

Congratulations to the following students who both receive a $10 voucher from Kaisercraft!

Jessica Ladhams 3/4 C— for the enthusiasm and imagination put into creating her 3 tier ‘birthday cake’ made from painted plastic containers for her food art project. Great work Jessica!

Eli Bonner 1/2 H— Eli showed tremendous skill and focus to stitch a lovely message on hessian to his mum for Mother’s Day. Fabulous work Eli!

Congratulations to all students for their fantastic enthusiasm and effort over the last few weeks creating their wonderful Mother’s Day gifts. I’m sure all mum’s loved them!

Karen Jahn
**SPOTLIGHT ON MDRPS CURRICULUM!**

**Reading**  As we move into the winter months, sometimes our homework routines can be forgotten. I’m sure parents can relate to occasions where it’s difficult to complete the home reader. However, when these occasions become more regular and routines start to disappear, it can have a negative impact on a child’s learning and development.

A study into reading has uncovered that just 20 minutes of reading every school day equates to a total of 3,600 minutes and about 1,800,000 words per year! **WOW!**

Compare that to reading 1 minute per day and just 8,000 words per year - that's a big difference.

At Mount Duneed we promote a love of reading and encourage all students to engage in reading texts that they enjoy and find interesting.

Here are some tips to help you reach at least 20 minutes of reading every day!

* Keep a few books in the car or in your bag and read to and from school
* Set up a time everyday to read to parents, friends, siblings or even by yourself
* Wake up a little earlier every morning and read before breakfast
* Look for things at home and in the community that you can read, e.g. Signs, magazines, newspapers, recipe books, menus etc
* Search for books online that you can read eg. Storyline online and Tumblebooks
* Borrow books from the school or community library
* Complete Literacy Planet activities


**Happy reading!**

---

**GRADE 2 NETBALLERS’ STAR ENCOUNTER WITH VIXENS**

Our under 9s netball team had a special meet-and-greet with Melbourne Vixens star Tegan Philip (who hails from Anglesea) and behind-the-scenes tour of Hisense Arena during a recent trip to the city to see an ANZ Championship game.

Thanks to Swisse and Netball Australia ‘pulling some strings’, the Mt Duneed Stars were taken court-side at half-time to get up-close to the Vixens’ players, collect autographs and pose for some photos.

The girls checked out the players’ change rooms (including their healthy snack table) and warm up space, but the real highlight was seeing the VIP lounge where Pink, One Direction and Katy Perry chilled out before their concerts.

After joining the ANZ NetSetGo introductory program, the Mt Duneed Stars made their ‘debut’ last July at the Geelong Netball and Basketball Centre. Over the past nine months, the girls have come a long way - from complete beginners with no concept of the rules or positions to now holding their own against the opposition - thanks to their volunteer coaches Tanya Harrington and Rachael Oxford.

---

**THRASS —** On Tuesday 17th May from 7-8pm Carrie Rowe will be running a Parent Session on THRaSS (Teaching Handwriting Reading and Spelling Strategies). **THRASS** is a methodology that we incorporate into our Literacy program to improve phonemic awareness and to support students in making accurate spelling choices. As part of the session you will be informed about how we implement the program daily, the terminology used, along with strategies to help your child at home. If you would like to attend could you please return the attendance slip below by the 13th of May so I can prepare resources for this session.

**NB:** This form is available as an eform on the Skoolbag App if you would like to respond electronically.

THRaSS WORKSHOP

☐ YES, I / we wish to participate in the THRaSS workshop on Tuesday, 19th May at 7pm.

Name

__________________________

Child/ren’s name

__________________________

Grade/s

__________________________
**Nature Play—Outside is OK.**

Getting outside and playing independently in natural environments is important to children’s health. It has been found that children who have more time in nature develop greater resilience and are less likely to suffer anxiety and depression later in life.

To help parents encourage their children to play outside more (and to get out more themselves) Barwon health has developed a number of resources—free— that can be downloaded. Just type ‘Barwon Health Nature’ into your search bar.

**Definitions**

- **‘Natural Environment’** An open air environment that does not contain man-made items or materials. For example, a dirt or grass base, not concrete or plastic; trees and plants, not slides or swings; canopy of leaves or sky, not shade-cloth.

- **‘Bush-Setting’** A natural environment where trees and undergrowth grow freely without significant management. Open areas may or may not be maintained, and access may or may not be cleared. This may include (but is not limited to) creek beds, forests, rocky outcrops and beaches.

- **‘Nature-Play’** The opportunity to play in a natural environment, without significant access to man-made resources or materials. For example, a child can make their own see-saw from a fallen log on a rock, but does not have access to a pre-fabricated one; water may be carried in buckets to a mud pit or garden bed but not to a plastic shell full of sand and toy trucks.

- **‘Outdoor Play’** Any opportunity to play in an outside area. This includes ‘nature-play’ as well as play on man-made constructions (if outside) such as a climbing structure on polymer grass, but does not include the same structures if placed in an indoor setting (such as at fast-food venues).

- **‘Bush-Group’** A group of families or an educational program (eg. kindergarten, playgroup) that meet in a bush setting to enable free, unstructured play for the children. While some care is taken to ensure child safety (such as boundaries and rules for safety), little intervention occurs by the adults in the children’s play; and few, if any, resources are provided.

**THREE ATTRIBUTES FOR THE BEST NATURE PLAY:**

1. **The kind of place**

   Nature play requires land that is not too protected and is wild; at least in children’s eyes. This might be a quiet corner in a local park, a small neighbourhood creek, a beach, a vacant city lot, part of a local school, or your own backyard. However large or small, the site must have natural elements to play with and discover, such as: rocks, dirt, trees, bugs, flowers, mud, and/or water. Ideally the place must enable children to dig, collect, climb, build, or hide there.