



MITCHAT



MITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS - 18 NOVEMBER 2009

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DIARY DATES

Wednesday 18 November

- Parent information evening (Prep 2010) 7.00pm - 8.00pm
- Uniform shop open 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Thursday 19 November

- Free dress day

Monday 23 November

- Uniform shop open 9.00am - 9.30am
- Scholastic book orders due today

Wednesday 25 November

- School banking

Tuesday 1 December

- CRE concert 9.00am in PAC

Tuesday 8 December

- Prep orientation day 8.45am - 10.15am

Wednesday 9 December

- Community evening

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS/ACTIVITIES

Where/What	When	Grades	Payment Due
Rickett's Point	2 December	Prep	Wednesday 25 November

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

PRINCIPAL'S VALUE OF THE MONTH

TEAMWORK

Dear Parents

Working Bee

The parents, children and teachers who attended the Working Bee on Sunday worked extremely hard and made a big difference to the appearance of the school, particularly at the Mitcham Road end. Weeding, tidying up and mulching were a few of the tasks where much was accomplished. Thank you to parents and (in many cases) children from the following families for their assistance: Sharp, Perez (Weffer), Walsh, Turzynski-Azimi, Andrews, Sayle, Phillips, Date and Kutey. Thanks also to Amy and Iain Baker and Judith and Aiden Ryall for their assistance.

Ultraset

Several weeks ago, at Karralyka, Principals in Eastern Metropolitan Region were briefed about the Ultraset, a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development initiative. The Education Minister, Ms Bronwyn Pike, announced in July that the State Government will deliver the Ultraset project to every Victorian government school in 2010 in a staged process. She indicated that the Ultraset will provide parents, students and teachers with a 21st Century platform to keep parents connected, involved and informed about their child's learning 24-hours a day.

What is the Ultraset? The Ultraset is an on-line learning system for parents, teachers and students and is intended to allow access to information which all groups need for the best outcome for students. It will be accessible online, anywhere, any time.

It will allow access to the following:

- Timetables, attendance and student work requirements.
- It will accommodate regulations about privacy. Students will only have access to their own profile and information and parents will only be able to see their child's profiles, no-one else's child's profile. Teachers will only be able to see details for those children for whom they have direct duty of care.
- Teachers will be able to look at curriculum data and personalise materials for particular students. Teachers will be able to create and load up learning tasks on-line and students will be able to submit work online. These tasks and access will be accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Parents will be able to receive and give feedback and keep track of their child's progress.

The Ultraset's main intended objective and value is to strengthen partnerships between teachers, schools, parents and the community. The Ultraset will be released in two stages, and should have the capacity to grow and expand in time.

NAPLAN Results

The school received excellent news last week about the comparative performance of our students in relation to all other Victorian schools for Year 3 and Year 5 students. On five of

the eight NAPLAN result comparisons we were placed in the superior performance category. All our median and mean scores were well above the state averages. Most reading and numeracy scores have improved in 2009 and we have done particularly well in comparison to similar schools with all median scores being ahead of the average. Five of the scores in Reading and Maths were one standard deviation ahead of the expected level. We still have work to do and are conceiving a plan to try to get the three measures where the performance was in the similar band up to the same level as the best scores. This will not be easy to achieve.

The children have performed very well. Congratulations to them and thank you to the teachers who have done such a good job across the school in teaching the components of our literacy and numeracy programs that are measured as well as the components that are not. If you would like to look at the results, a copy of them is available at the office.

These comparative results will be published on a web site by the government early in the new year, we understand. Many Principals, including me, have grave reservations about the potential for misuse of this data.

Reminders to Parents

1. Parents are reminded that all children are required to wear a sunhat and sun block. Please check that your child has both these items before they leave for school. The forecast for tomorrow means that these items will be essential. Please check your child's diary every day. Your child's teacher will write a note to you in the diary if your child has forgotten it that day.
2. Please ensure that you do not bring dogs to school. Dogs are not permitted at school or in classrooms. A number of children at our school have a medical condition related to dogs and will have an extreme reaction if they see a dog.
3. Please do not allow your child to play on play equipment after the home bell. The School Council created a policy forbidding play on play equipment many years ago after a serious accident occurred after school. The play areas are not supervised by teachers after the bell rings.

Bus Travel

The School Council has a bus travel policy related to seat belts for local trips and a parent has expressed concern about travel to swimming in buses not equipped with seat belts. The School Council will look at its policy through the Education sub-committee over the next month. The cost of transport is already onerous and if the school moved to individual seat belted trips the cost per child for transport will rise by around 50%. The staff and I will produce some sample figures for School Council to consider in its review. It is not something that the teachers have a vested interest in. If we have an excursion going somewhere we have to book transport, and parents pay the full cost, not the teachers.

Grade Structure

Normally each year I publish the expected enrolment figures and invite parents to design a grade structure. Protocols are that we try to keep Grades Prep to 2 averaging 21 children or under and try to keep Grades 3 to 6 under 30, though some times this is not possible and we can get caught out during the year with incoming enrolments. Although we try to avoid Prep/1, 2/3 and 4/5 combinations, because they cross Victorian Essential Learning Standards curriculum level delivery, we can't guarantee that this won't happen and, sometimes, like in 2009, they are essential to manage unusual numbers at particular Grade levels. We do actively choose 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6 combinations and the curriculum is the same for each of these grade

levels in a two year cycle. Montessori parents are aware of the combinations we have children in (Grade 1, 2 and 3 and Grade 4, 5 and 6, where possible).

Expected enrolment numbers for 2009 are:

	Mainstream	Montessori
Prep	37	
1	41	22
2	43	14
3	36	26
4	44	19
5	27	13
6	31	12

Grade numbers at any level can fluctuate between now and the start of the year. This is one reason why we ask parents with children leaving to inform us now whilst we are working out our grade structure. We don't have the same luxury with incoming students who arrive without warning, and five years ago we took 16 enrolments on the first day of the year. We are planning on 11 mainstream classes and 5 Montessori classes. Please feel free to have a go at creating the perfect school.

Staffing for 2010

Parents are advised that we are nearly finished staffing the school for next year and have one more selection process to complete to cover a specialist program for 2010 where the teacher will be on leave for the year. We are still in the process of selecting a Montessori teacher.

Miss Claire Poole has been provisionally selected for a one year contract. I have consented to Mrs Phillips extending her contract as a Teaching and Learning Coach at the region for a further two year period.

Forward projections with the expected amount of money available to employ teachers have caused the School Council and me considerable concern and I will outline these concerns in a future issue of Mitchat along with what options we have to deal with the possibilities. Put simply, we will not be provided with sufficient money by the DEECD to maintain low grade numbers and the current number of specialist program and one of these two components will need to alter from 2011. Almost every Principal I have spoken to in the last month has been in the same position.

Kind regards

Ian Sloane
Principal



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Food For Family Appeal

Some of Mullauna's student leaders have organised a Food for Family Appeal. This appeal involves the collection of non-perishable food, which will be donated to families in need. Each grade will collect food items and will be given points for each item. The Mullauna students will collect the food items and at a later date, they will announce the grade that has collected the most. We have decided to support this appeal and will start collecting from now until 4 December. Children can bring donations to their classrooms, but they must be non-perishable items.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Last Wednesday all students from grades 3 – 6 attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at Halliday Park. The ceremony was conducted by the RSL and involved a number of community groups. The students' behaviour demonstrated their respect and understanding of the significance of this day. At the conclusion of the ceremony all students were invited to place their poppy on the memorial. Once again we were congratulated on the behaviour of the students.



Friday Night Disco

Last Friday night our hall was filled with music, children and 'spooky' decorations. The children's costumes looked great and many took delight in trying to get me to guess who it was under the masks! Many thanks to all the parents involved in the organisation of the disco including Sue Laksassi, Nerilee Rinkquest, Maarit Moilanen and George Skell, and to the many parents who helped on the night. Special thanks to 'Disco George' the DJ for the night. Your efforts were really appreciated by the children, who all had a great time.

Prep Information Night

On Wednesday 18 November we will be holding our Prep information session for all the parents of our 2010 Preps and for those starting in the Montessori rooms. The session will begin at 7.00pm and conclude at around 8.00pm. This year we will be running this session in the Performing Arts Centre. Our school captains will be involved in the presentation along with some of our teachers. The uniform shop will be open from 6.00pm - 7.00pm for all parents who have not arranged their son/daughter's uniform for next year.

Heather Wood
Assistant Principal

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

- Prep B** Carlos
- Prep T** Patrick
- 1-3A** Elyse
- 1-3M** Iggy & Marcella
- 2/3B** David
- 3/4M** Chris
- 5/6C** Lucy & Haydn
- 5/6X** Louise
- Indonesian** Aoife (4-6B)



FOUND AT THE DISCO

Could the person who approached one of the parents at the disco with a query about petrol please contact the office.

MITCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY EVENING - WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER

We are very much looking forward to having our Community Evening in our very own Performing Arts Centre this year. As in the past two years, this year the school Community Evening will be held over two sessions which will hopefully minimize an overcrowding problem.



The first performance is scheduled for 6.00pm – 6.45pm. Mitcham Primary school students arrive at 5.45pm. Prep B, Prep T, 1/2G, 1/2L, 1/2P, 2/3B, 1-3A, 1-3M and the choir will perform at the first performance.

The second performance is scheduled for 7.00pm – 7.45pm. Mitcham Primary school students arrive at 6.45pm. 2-5J, 3/4A, 3/4M, 4/5O, 4-6G, 5/6C, 5/6X, the school choir and the Do Re Mitcham choir will perform at the second performance.

Families who have children in both senior school and junior school classes can attend both performances. Senior School students who attend the Junior school performance should sit with their parents. Junior school students who attend the second performance should sit with their parents.

There will be a notice sent home to all families later this week outlining the procedure for obtaining tickets for this event. Further information detailing where performing students will be sitting during the event will also be forthcoming in this notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Beverley Taylor
Event Coordinator

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS

Orders are due in by Monday 23 November. Late orders will be returned as there can be no back orders because it is the end of the year.

IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY

Student absences for the week 2-6 November:

Year level	Unexplained	Approved
Prep	8	7
1	13	18
2	14	10
3	22	12
4	11	11
5	12	7
6	17	5
Total	97	70

Whenever your child has been absent from school, please send a note to your child's teacher explaining the absence for them to keep in their records.

SPORTS NEWS

P-2 Swimming

For the next two weeks there are 2 buses returning from the swimming program very close to dismissal time. Could I please ask all parents to ensure they allow room for the buses to park so that children can get off the bus safely. Witches hats will be placed in the area the bus drivers have requested.

Weet-Bix Kids TRY-athlon

Come and collect a flyer if you are interested in the TRY-athlon, which will be held on Sunday 14 March, 2010 in St. Kilda. Children from 7 to 15 years old swim, ride and run with variable distances set according to their age. All efforts are rewarded equally with medallions.

Anna Papamichael
Physical Education Teacher

DISCO

On Friday the 13th it was the spooky disco from 7:30 to 9:00 for the 3-6's. We had a very great time, we played Limbo and Patricia from 4/50 won. We also had a spooky costume contest and Elise from 5/6C and Freya from 5/6X were the judges. Daniel from 2/3B and Tiffanie from 3/4A won.

Some grade 5/6's were even doing the Macarena that they made up. It was awesome and we joined in. We all got glow bangles and icy poles at the end. Some of the prizes were from Smiggle like a torch and other stuff. If you weren't there what we also did was jump, dance, sing and scream. The hall was decorated with cobwebs, a witch that danced and glowed with red eyes and some spiders. There was a disco light and the music was really loud we had a great time and hope everybody else did to.

Pauline & Elise (5/6C)

Friday 13th was the freaky Friday disco. The theme was dress scary or as your favourite character. The Prep - Grade 2 disco was at 6pm - 7pm & Grade 3 - 6 was at 7.30pm - 9pm. Some people dressed scary but others just came as themselves. The winners of the scariest costumes were Tiffanie and Daniel. The judges were Freya and Elise. Their prizes were something from Smiggle. Daniel dressed up as James Bond and Tiffany dressed up as a witch.

Another competition we had was Limbo. Patricia was the winner. Everybody danced and had a great time. At the end of the disco we had icy-poles. We would also like to thank George for being our DJ of the night and parents for organizing the disco. Without them it wouldn't be an awesome disco. Our last song of the night was Burn by Jessica Mauboy and everybody was doing the Macarena that we did at camp. Everybody had a great time.

Mannii & Hilary (5/6C)

UNIFORM SHOP

Year 6 Class Tops 2010

The fitting session for sizing the children for their class tops was held on Tuesday 17 November. Please look in your child's schoolbag for their invoice/receipt, which will be given to them as we fit each child. On this paperwork you will see the garments you have ordered and the sizes as chosen by us. If you wish to discuss the size chosen, please ring Linda 9873 7802 as soon as possible. The order will be faxed to our supplier on Monday 23 November. After this date we will not be discussing sizes, all sizes will be final.

Any parent who has not ordered their child a year 6 class top 2010 garment and wishes to do so, please contact Linda by phone, as soon as possible. You will not be able to order garments at a later date, this is a one off opportunity, as our supplier has extra charges for small orders and this makes the costs too high to consider.

Prep Information Evening Wednesday 18 November

Prior to the information evening commencing, the uniform shop will be open from 6.00pm to 7.00 pm, to assist any parents with uniform for Prep/Montessori enrolments for 2010.

Linda Hoh and Penni Winter
Uniform Shop Coordinators

CANTEEN

On Duty:

Thursday 19/11 Nikki O'Shea-Ryan & Ainslie Kendrick
Friday 20/11 Lorena Campos, Thi Do Tuyet, Kath Benis, Helen Howse, Sonia Mirra & Nikki O'Shea-Ryan
Wednesday 25/11 Suzie Winder & Stacie Timmins

The slice of the week this week is 'Lemon Slice'.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE NEWS (OSHCLUB)

Holiday program starts 18 January 2010.

This week:

MONDAY 23/11	Making puppets
TUESDAY 24/11	AASC Multi-skill games
WEDNESDAY 25/11	Paint your very own hat
THURSDAY 26/11	AASC Multi-skill games
FRIDAY 27/11	Cooking doughnut muffins

Daily Activities

Board games - computer - dress ups - dolls house - lego - cubby house - painting - sports equipment to play with - building blocks - library corner - art / craft table with lots of great stuff.

Dalia Zilinskas
Coordinator
Ph: 0422 097 497

A reminder that Mitchat articles need to be at the Office by 12 noon Tuesday. Articles which arrive after this time will be held over until the next Mitchat, subject to space availability.

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