

*At Mentone Primary School,
Relationships are Important, Learning is Powerful
and we are Curious, Creative and Confident*

Principal: Marcelle van Maanen
Assistant Principal: Ken Bergen
Newsletter No. 1 3.2.23



Term 1

TERM 1 Dates & Events 2023

February	
Monday 6	School Council nominations open
Tues 7	Stay and Play
Mon 13	School Council nominations close
Wed 15	District Swimming
Thur 16	School Council Meeting
Wed 21	Meet your Teacher Conversations
March	
Tues 2	New school council declared
Tues 7	Stay and Play
Wed 15-17	NAPLAN
Thurs 16	New School Council meeting
Wed 22-24	Grade 5-6 camp
April	
Thursday 6	LAST DAY OF TERM 1 1.30 pm Finish
More events to be added onto calendar in coming weeks	

Start of Year Update from the Principal

Dear MPS Families,

Welcome back to school!

We have had a lovely, fun, calm and productive first week back. It is such a delight to have all our students back onsite, enjoying themselves and bursting with many tales of all the things they got up to during the summer break.

We have had quite a few new families and children enrol over the break and I extend an especially warm welcome to them as they join our learning community.

There is a lot of information we transmit home in the first few weeks and this newsletter is the start of that process. Special or upcoming events across the term will be so much more successful with your attendance and we look forward to catching up with you.



Please read on for all the news.

Relevant policies, guidelines and the Department's parent code of conduct will be sent in a separate compass communication next week.

Its going to be a wonderful year 😊

Warm regards,

Marcelle van Maanen

Principal

WELCOME TO RETURNING STAFF

We would like to welcome back Jess Windram, (5-6W) and Esther Gilmore (1G) who are returning to teach at MPS in 2023. So happy to have these two excellent teachers back with us for 2023 😊

FUNDRAISING

Last year, thanks to all our wonderful kids, the support of their families and friends, our super staff and our awesome support team of parent organisers we raised over \$50,000. This money was raised from combined events including, Special Lunches, the Trivia night, Raffles, a Chocolate drive, Mothers/Father's Day stalls, The election BBQ/Cake stall and of course the highly amusing Colour run.

Telephone: 9583 2995

Email: mentone.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Money raised will go toward the grounds with the play equipment being updated through the year. Our first priority is the removal of the metal play equipment adjacent to the courtyard and replacing this with some natural and user-friendly play equipment.

STAY n PLAY



We are excited to announce that we are trialling a new initiative after school to give families the opportunity to connect with us and each other afterschool.

Stay and Play will happen twice this term, next Tuesday, (Feb 7) and later in the term on Tuesday March 7.

What is Stay and Play?

Stay and Play is an afternoon when students can stay back at school until 4.45 to play outside in the grounds.

All our staff will be out with fun activities happening and there will be a sausage sizzle too- Sausages \$2.50

Parents should arrive as usual prior to 3.45 and are welcome from 3.30pm

Please note: Students must be accompanied by a family member or carer. Unfortunately, students who remain onsite without a family member or carer supervising them will need to be picked up.

So, please come and join us to have some fun, connect with our lovely staff and make new connections with other school families next Tuesday afternoon.

STAFF WORK HOURS

A new enterprise bargaining agreement, (EBA) between the Education Department and the teacher's union came into effect for school staff at the beginning of this year. The agreement impacts staff work hours and face to face teaching time.

Due to the fact that our school has 4 specialist classes per week for each class, face to face teaching time is not impacted.

However, teachers can no longer be required to work outside 38 hours per week without being compensated for the extra time worked with Time in Lieu offsite.

This will impact all out of hours events such as camps, early/late excursions and out of school hour events such as , Meet the Teacher days, Student led conversations, parent teacher meetings, POTH, Graduation, Art show, Mother's Day and Father's Day breakfasts etc.

It is difficult and costly for schools to provide Time in Lieu for teachers and the Department of Education has not funded government schools to financially compensate staff with overtime payments.

A regular 38-hour working week is 3 x 8-hour days and 2 x 7-hour days. In line with the practice most government schools have adopted, I have consulted with staff at the end of last year to identify our regular hours under the new EBA which will consist of, 2 x 8-hour days, 2 seven hour days and an additional 7 hour day with the 8th hour pre allocated to time in lieu.

This has required us to be explicit about the start and finish time for each working day of the week and parents need to be aware that staff hours have changed to the following.

Mentone Primary School Staff onsite working hours

- Monday:** Staff start at **8.30am** Staff Finish **4.30pm**
(Includes 15 minute whole school briefing 8.30-8.45am and PLT time 3.45-4.30pm)
- Tuesday:** Staff start at **8.45am** Staff Finish **3.45pm**
(final hour, 3.45-4.45pm- offsite pre allocated to Time in Lieu as needed through-out the year.)
- Wednesday:** Staff start at **8.45am** Staff Finish **4.45pm**
(final hour, 3.45-4.45pm onsite whole school professional learning workshop)
- Thursday:** Staff start at **8.45am** Staff Finish **3.45pm**
- Friday:** Staff start at **8.45am** Staff Finish **3.45pm**

*Please respect our staff's working week and their professional commitments by keeping these times in mind when requesting face to face meetings with teachers. Meetings can be requested at 8.45-9am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday- during the school day at recess or school lunch time, or after school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm. Teachers can also speak with you by phone or make a time to meet with you virtually. Don't forget all our staff 'Step outside' their classroom every afternoon from 3.30pm-3.45pm if they are not meeting individual parents. 😊

Please note: We hope to be able to cover all the time in Lieu requirements for individual teachers with the hour pre-allocated on Tuesdays, however sometimes this may not be possible, and I would ask that families understand that this could increase the time teachers are not with their regular class. If and when this occurs the class will be taken by a relief teacher or the class will be split to other teachers in their team.

CAMPS

We will not be cancelling our camps; however, camps will be restricted to 3 days in 2023. One thing we will really need this year to be able to continue providing camp experiences for our students, is **parent volunteers** to attend camp. The more parents we have to support the team, the less teachers we have to take away from other classrooms 😊

Grade 5-6 Camp to Toolangi is Wednesday 22 March to Friday 24 March.
Grade 3-4 Camp to Adanac is Monday 22 of May to Wednesday 24 May.

Parent Volunteers



MEET YOUR TEACHER- WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

Meet your Teacher Wellbeing Conversations are an opportunity early in the year for you and your child's teacher to develop a positive relationship.

Key indicators for student success include strong relationships and partnerships with families, therefore we encourage you to book a time for a Face-to-Face conversation with your child's teacher or request an online slot between 1.30pm and 6.30pm. Bookings for these conversations will open on Compass next week and an alert will inform you when they are open.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to the families who have already paid their family contributions.

Family contributions are located on Compass under "Course Confirmations and Payments "

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRIVACY POLICY

MPS collects, uses, discloses, and stores student and parent personal information for school functions or where permitted by law as stated in the school's privacy policy.

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/privacypolicy.aspx>

SUNSMART SCHOOL



Students need to wear a hat in term 1 and 4. Sorry, NO HAT NO PLAY. Please also sunscreen your child before school. We provide sunscreen at school for students who need it.

ASTHMA / ANAPHYLAXIS / ALLERGY PLANS

If your child has received a new action plan, please email to the school office

mentone.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Children with Asthma need to have Ventolin in their school bag, clearly labelled with name and grade.



From the School Office

Office hours 8.30am-4pm

STUDENT ABSENCES

All student absences must be recorded, and **we are required by the department to follow up on every absence that has been recorded without parent approval.**

If your child is unwell, please log into Compass and register your child's absence on the portal. You can help us by recording and checking your child's absences to ensure that you have selected 'parent approved.'

Alternately you can call the office on 9583 2995 and **press 1** to record your child's absence.

PICKING UP YOUR CHILD EARLY

If you need to collect your child early, please call the office and allow extra time to have your child brought to the foyer to meet you. Office 9583 2995.



Please do not regularly pick your child up early for the sake of convenience or weekends away. This is very disruptive to the classrooms and difficult for the office staff on busy afternoons.

RIDING, SCOOTERING, AND WALKING TO SCHOOL



As the new year begins, PLEASE remind children of how important it is to be road safe and to not rush to school if running late.



Icy pole Shop

The icy pole shop will reopen on Wednesday, February 8.

White Icy poles or mini Calippos are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for \$1.00.



2022 Classroom Staff List

Prep L	Mrs Lynne Lang Mr Chaplin	Specialists STEM – Mr Thorpe Auslan – Mrs Jefferson PE – Mr Cardamone Art – Ms Walker
Prep R	Mrs Lisa Robinson	
Grade 1G	Miss Esther Gilmour	
Grade 1S	Miss Dani Smith	
Grade 2B	Miss Claire Burgess	
Grade 2S	Mrs Trish Smith & Mrs Cath Beaumont	Wellbeing Team – Mr Gareth O’Gradie, Mr Andrea Vignati , Mrs Noura Atluri and Mrs Carly New
Grade 2C	Ms Chang	Business manager – Mrs Ann Penrose
Grade 34M	Ms Alice Melville	Administration – Ms Tia Alvarez
Grade 34K	Mr Harris Kent	School Leadership Principal - Ms Marcelle van Maanen Assistant Principal – Mr Ken Bergen Learning Specialist – Mr Jared Chaplin
Grade 34A	Mr Jack Aldis	
Grade 34N	Mrs Jo Nash	
Grade 56E	Mr Matt Ellery	
Grade 56H	Mr Madison Huebner	
Grade 56T	Ms Georgia Treu	
Grade 56W	Ms Jessica Windram	

2023 Victorian school term dates

	Start date	Finish date
Term 1	31 January	6 April
Term 2	24 April	23 June
Term 3	10 July	15 September
Term 4	2 October	20 December

HELLO

We're here when you need us!

BEFORE, AFTER+ HOLIDAY CARE



EPIC CLUBS
+ EVENTS



SAFE + FUN
ENVIRONMENT



YUMMY
FOOD



FUN + ENGAGING
EDUCATORS



@teamkidsaustralia



@teamkidsaustralia

HOW TO REGISTER?

Head to the link below:
teamkids.com.au/register

Allow **10-15 min** to
set up your account.



To make a booking, we require the
entire registration process to be
completed, this includes all
emergency contacts, payment
details and medical forms.



NEED HELP?

Our friendly Customer
Service team are only
a phone call away and
happy to assist.



teamkids.com.au | 1300 035 000

Breakfast Club Starting Soon

BREAKFAST CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Breakfast Club will be starting soon on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Volunteers are needed from 8.30am to 9.15am to assist with tasks such as setting up the breakfast area, preparing and serving breakfasts, and cleaning up and washing dishes. Social interaction with the students is an important part too and supports informal learning of social and life skills. If you are available and interested in assisting on one or more days, please contact our Breakfast Club Program Coordinator Emma Bult at bruce.emmaj@gmail.com or phone 0404 882 135.



ROBOTICS

at Mentone Primary

The Lego WeDo program is an engaging introduction into the world of robotics and a great way to develop interest in maths, science and engineering. This hands-on program will see students working together to solve a range of real problems all with the support of experienced robotics coaches. Students will develop the confidence to ask questions and find answers at the same time.

ENROL
ONLINE
NOW!

CONTACT US
FOR TRIALS

THURSDAYS, 3:30 - 4:30 PM

STARTS ON 9 FEB

RUNS FOR 8 SESSIONS

FOR YEARS 1 - 6

ROOM: LIBRARY

Scan or click
the QR code
to enrol
online!



Kids
Unlimited

info@kidsunlimited.com.au
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