From the Principal’s desk …

Aussie of the Month
Congratulations to Lori Bathman from 1/2F for being awarded Aussie of the Month for May. Lori consistently displays all the Keys to Success along with our school values: Respect, Responsibility, Quality and Community. Well done Lori! You are very deserving of this award. 😊

Reports & Parent/Teacher Interviews
This week reports went home that have highlighted your child’s achievements this semester along with identifying areas for improvement. I’m sure you’ve all had a chance to celebrate the successes!! It was great to see everyone attending interviews today. It’s an important time for us all to connect with each other as we prepare for semester two. If you were unable to attend your interviews today, please contact your child’s teacher to make an alternative time. Thanks!

Numeracy Focus at MPS
During our School Review last year it was identified that we needed a greater focus on improving outcomes in Numeracy going forward into the next Strategic Plan (4 year cycle).
Our goal in this year’s Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) is to ‘Embed a whole school focus on Numeracy’.
To action this goal we identified two keys things to focus on this year:
1. Staff will be provided with opportunities to build capacity in the delivery of numeracy.
2. Parents are provided with opportunities to learn about numeracy.
How are we tracking with our goals?
During semester one, we have established a partnership with Numeracy consultant Neil Devaney. Neil has previously worked with the department as a Numeracy Coach. This term Neil has spent time working with our Numeracy leader, Elly French revising our Numeracy curriculum documents. Neil has also led staff professional learning (whole group) as well as worked with our planning teams to support sequential learning skills.

Next term, Neil will be working with some staff in classrooms in a coaching role. We also look forward to working with you as we have planned a Numeracy Expo and opportunities for you to come along a learn about the developmental pathways in Counting, Numeration, Additional & Subtraction and Multiplication & Division and tasks that support these. Keep an eye out for information next term!

Camp Payments
A reminder that the next instalment for camp (Canberra & Camp Jungai) are due this Friday, June 24.

NAIDOC Week
We will be celebrating NAIDOC Week the first week of Term 3. NAIDOC Week Celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Hot Dog & Dim Sim Day
Thank you in advance to Jodie Robinson, Michelle Donders and our student Community leadership group for organising and running our Hot Dog & Dim Sim day this term. Students look forward to this day each term, so thank you for your support!

Fire Wood
Our trees around the school have had a trim and tidy up and as a result we now have some firewood (green) for sale! $150 per 6m x 4m trailer load. Please contact Shelly if you are interested by this Friday, June 24!

Essential Items
Invoices for your child/rens Essential Items have previously been sent home, please make sure you are up to date with payments before the end of term.

Last day of term 2
The final day of term 2 will be this Friday June 24. Students will be dismissed at 2:30pm on this day. Have a wonderful break with the family and see you back on Monday July 11.

Melissa Houlihan        Principal
AROUND THE SCHOOL:
Keys to Success - Getting Along, Confidence, Organisation, Persistence & Resilience

“YOU CAN DO IT”

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Left to Right

Back: Marli, Zye & Chelsea
Front: Abby, Max, Caitlin & Natasha

Gr F-1WW – Abby Gibson – For working really hard on learning her alphabet and great participation in reading groups. Well done Abby!
Gr F-1WW – Max Ewart – For his great have a go attitude when writing. It has been great to see Max writing many new words and fabulous sentences.
Gr 1-2F – Natasha Puts – Natasha has shown the Persistence and Organisation keys when going back over her writing to check her spelling.
Gr 1-2F – Caitlin Roberts – Caitlin has demonstrated Confidence and Persistence in Maths and Reading.
Gr 2-3V – Marli Young – For working hard in class and being friendly in the yard. Great work Marli, keep it up!
Gr 4-5C – Chelsea Hughes – For showing great Persistence, Resilience and just plain hard work with your homework. Well Done Chelsea!
Gr 5-6B – Zye Treadway – For always using the 5 keys to success, being ready to learn and for being a good role model.

TERM 2 PLANNER

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PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM: There is nothing more important than the bond between parent and child. Parents/ grandparents with children aged from 0-5 years are invited to come along to a morning filled with singing songs, action finger rhymes and story telling! The Parent-Child Mother Goose Program will take place at Murchison Primary School every Friday from 9.30am-10.30am during the school term. Sessions are fun, free and morning tea is provided!

For more information contact (03) 58262391.

RESOURCESMART: Murchison Primary School is working towards becoming a Resource Smart School in the four areas of waste and litter management, energy use, water use and biodiversity. Each week there will be a change we can make to the way we live to reduce our impact on the environment.

Tip 18: Wash clothes using cold water and cut hot water usage.

Tip 19: Install a water efficient showerhead and save water.

PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM: It's the last week of term 2 and we are busy finishing off projects and cleaning up the MASK room. As the weather has not been fantastic we have been spending more time inside. Activities that are most popular over the last few weeks have been hama beading, building/construction, making farms, using train tracks, cars and car mats and jewellery making. As the kids have all been tired we have also been watching movies and using the iPad.

A reminder to kids in MASK to bring in a photo of your family so we can add it to our MASK family tree.

We have been having large groups so please remember to let the office know if your children are attending MASK. Also a friendly reminder that MASK runs Monday-Friday 3.20pm-6pm. Please keep your accounts up to date and make sure enrolment forms are handed in.

Thank you Jenna Morris

Positive Parenting Telephone Service
This Program is offered to parents, grandparents & carers of children aged 2 – 10 years

Our ten week program aims to assist you to:
*Develop a stronger and more positive relationship with your child/children
*Manage everyday behaviour problems
  *Set rules & limits
  *Teach new skills
*Developing behaviour strategies

Through our service you will receive a workbook and weekly phone calls with a parent educator. All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.

Interested?
For more information or to enroll phone FREECALL 1800 880 660

ENROLMENTS TAKEN ALL YEAR ROUND
Start now and make a positive start last a lifetime

This service is funded by Department of Human Services Victoria

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP using LEGO® Bricks
Wednesday 6th July
Half day ($35) or Full day ($70)

We are celebrating the upcoming 2016 RIO Olympic Games with our very own BRICK OLYMPICS. Build a sports model, complete a challenge, and watch the medal tally grow.

Lots of fun building and playing with LEGO bricks for ages 5+

For a full description and to book online visit
www.bricks4kidz.com.au/mansfieldvic or email kynobi@bricks4kidz.com
How many books have YOU read so far!

We’re excited to announce that we’ve just passed the halfway mark. Congratulations to everyone who is participating this year! The PRC will close on 9 September 2016.

More than 207,000 students from 950 schools and 6,086 children from 283 early childhood services and homes have already signed up. It’s great to see thousands of children across the state are discovering new authors and getting hooked on reading. Well done to US here at MPS!

Last Friday we drew our lucky readers at Student Assembly! MORNING TEA WITH MISS HOULIHAN at the Bakery!

Congratulations to Brianna, Bailey, Nina & Joshua. I wonder who’ll be having morning tea next week 1 term 3? Will it be YOU! Good luck and happy reading! 😊

BULLYING SURVEY: Attached to a recent newsletter was a Department of Education survey regarding bullying at our school. Your input is highly valued so please take a few minutes to fill out the survey ticking the boxes as appropriate. If you wish to add any written comments please attach and return to the school by tomorrow Thursday June 23. A box for surveys will be located at front office. There are more copies available from the office please see Shelly.

Thank-you so much for your feedback! 😊

MURCHISON SUPA VALU CENTRE – proud sponsor of the School Newsletter
CELEBRATING 25 YEAR’S SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY
SUPERMARKET MILKBAR NEWSAGENCY

Shop Hours: Mon – Thurs- 5:00am - 6:30pm,
Fri- 5:00am – 7:00pm, Sat- 6:00am – 6:30pm,
Sun- 7:00am – 6:30pm.

BATTERY RECYCLE DEPOT
SHOP LOCALLY FOR CONVENIENCE & SERVICE
CITYLINK PASSES available

MURCHISON PRIMARY SCHOOL
Student Absence Form

Name: ________________________________
Class: _______________ Date: _______________
Reason: _______________________________________
Parent’s Signature: ____________________________
“What is bullying?”

Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids. But at times the term is being overused in our society and can be confused with teasing.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights.

But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the premeditated, selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another or others. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and appearances including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment, exclusion and can extend into the cyber-dimension of a family’s life.

Why the distinction?

I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with school community members. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) could ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Please be sure that at MPS bullying and teasing are both taken seriously and dealt with.

Our number one rule at our school is BE FRIENDLY!

A big thank-you to all the Parents, Students and Teachers who have taken the time to fill out the surveys over the past two weeks. I will be collating this data and presenting it to our Leadership Team for actions to follow up with.

Enjoy the term break – rug up, keep warm and be safe! 😊

Debbie Turvey
Student Wellbeing
Reading your child’s report

Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

Could try harder... always does her best... lacks concentration... easily distracted... a pleasure to teach... Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?

Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. Do you believe that children learn at different rates?

There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?

Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

Focus on strengths. Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

Broden your focus away from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

Take note of student self-assessment. Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.