

A Message from the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers and Community members,

Can you believe we are half way through Term 1? I keep learning new names each day and seeing some fun activities in the classes. I particularly enjoyed seeing the Juniors using some ice and water during this hot weather! I have been approving some pretty exciting camps and excursions – I'm hoping I get an invite!

As a staff team, we are looking at ways to make Melton SS a safer more engaging environment for our school community.

Parent Pick up and Drop off

As stated in the previous newsletter, we have been looking at ways of reducing the congestion in the Courtyard area both in the morning and afternoons. The aim of making the changes are for students to have a calm entry into school so they can start learning straight off!

Over the next week, we are changing our Parent drop off and pick up point. We will make sure there are signs and staff to guide you all through the new processes. Parents will need to drop their children to the Playground area – please continue to supervise your child until a staff member collects your child. As with all change there will be an element of reorganisation and troubleshooting – please communicate any issues to the Leadership Team so we can support changes to reduce your concerns.

SSG's

It was great to meet some of you during meetings and share a sausage sizzle and a chat with others. Please remember this is a newish process and we are still trying to make it as collaborative as possible. SSG minutes should be coming home – please check through and make sure you agree with the information before you sign and return for our records. Also, if you have not had a chance to meet with your class teacher – there's still time! Please come up or a phone conversation – we really need your input to create a meaningful and relevant program for your child.

I encourage all parents and carers to take up every opportunity to be involved in the school. Breeanna is working hard to meet family needs so stay tuned for a survey.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our second round of nominations closed yesterday and we were successful in filling one of the two available parent representative positions. We would like to congratulate Tamara Hanson and welcome her to the school council team. If you would like to participate in the school council please obtain a nomination form from the office and submit it before Friday 10th March 2017. There is one vacancy remaining in the parent representative category.

Best wishes everyone –have a great weekend

See you next week.
Brooke

Inside this issue:

Horticulture/Woodwork News	2
Up Coming Events	3
Spotlight on New Staff Eight Topics of RRR	4
Dates to Remember Asthma Reminder	5
Carers Info Session	6
Head Lice Treatment	7
Community News	8
Razzamatazz Tickets	11

**Bus
Absence
Line**

1800 660 530

VCAL Horticulture and Woodwork Electives News

The VCAL Horticulture team has been working very hard the last few weeks working on a very special Community Partnership Program with Yarraville Special Developmental School. They have rejuvenated a corner of the school to create a bright and engaging sensory garden.

The staff and students from Yarraville SDS were extremely impressed with the VCAL students efforts and are very appreciative of all the work that has been done. Well Done to the VCAL Horticulture Team, you have done us proud!!



On Monday mornings selected students from the Middles are participating in a new Woodwork Hand-On Learning program. They are learning to use the appropriate tools and protective equipment to create some wonderful and practical pieces.

The two groups are very proud of their first projects and they get to take home their very own blackboards.



Up coming Events

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence Friday 17th March 2017

Melton Specialist School is an official NDA School and we are excited that our school community will be saying 'Bullying. No Way!' with us. It's going to be a successful 2017 National Day of Action!

The National Day of Action is a positive day of action, where school communities across Australia stand united against bullying and violence.

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens.

Stopping bullying involves everyone.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check in** regularly with your child.

BULLYING. NO WAY!
www.bullyingnoway.gov.au



Harmony Day Monday 21st March 2017

Our diversity makes Australia a great place to live. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

Harmony Day is held every year on 21 March.

The Day coincides with the
United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The message of Harmony Day is '*everyone belongs*', the Day aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster sense of belonging for everyone.

Since 1999, more than 70,000 Harmony Day events have been held in childcare centres, schools, community groups, churches, businesses and federal, state and local government agencies across Australia.

Look out for more information in the next edition of the newsletter!



Spotlight on our New Staff Members



Michele Marcu commenced as the Senior Section Leading Teacher at the beginning of the year and is looking forward to working with the teachers and students at Melton Specialist School.

Michele's previous role as Leading Teacher of Inclusion, Personalised Learning and Support in the Senior Years Sub school at Manor Lakes College and her previous experience working in post school Disability Services providers and Disability Employment Services have given her the knowledge and skills to ensure our young people are provided with suitable programs and pathways as they move through the later years of school and transition to post school options.

Michele is keen to build positive working relationships with students, staff and families throughout 2017 and is excited to see the brilliant achievements of the students throughout the year.



Hi Everyone

My name is John McKee. I have worked for many years with young people with special needs, both as a youth worker and a teacher. Last year I was up in Stawell as the School Principal of Skene St Specialist School, but now live in Ballarat. I have love being at Melton Specialist School because everyone is so kind and friendly. The best part of our school are the students who generally do their best to learn in class and smile a lot! I am so lucky to work here, and look forward to meeting everyone in our wonderful school community! J

Introducing the 8 topics of RRRR

Students have begun the new Social and Emotional Learning and Respectful Relationships Curriculum. The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Curriculum centres around eight topics and each session is tailored to our students needs.

1. Emotional Literacy: The ability to understand ourselves and others
2. Personal Strengths: Building vocabulary to discuss personal, social and ethical topics.
3. Positive Coping: Learning about identifying, discussing and developing coping strategies.
4. Problem Solving: Activities to develop problem solving skills.
5. Stress Management: Positive approaches identifying personal signs of stress and management techniques.
6. Help Seeking: Focuses on importance of seeking help and providing peer support when problems are too big to solve.
7. Gender and Identity: Activities explore stereotypes and respect within all family and social relationships.
8. Positive Gender Relations: Understanding gender based violence and setting boundaries within relationships and friendships.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday	7th March	Vic Uni Inclusive Sports PE Program—selected students
Wednesday	8th March	International Women's Day Interschool Golf—Selected students
Monday	13th March	Public Holiday School Closed—Labour Day
Tuesday	14th March	Arts Centre Excursion—Danni's class
Friday	17th March	National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence Newsletter
Tuesday	21st March	Harmony Day Celebrations School Council Annual General Meeting 6pm Blackwood Camp—Penny's class
Monday	27th March	Alpine Ride Camp—selected students
Thursday	30th March	Individual Learning Plans (ILP) go home to families Career Action Plans go home to families Easter Hat Parade
Friday	31st March	End of Term Assembly 1:15pm Newsletter End of Term 1—Early Dismissal 2pm Term 2 begins 9am
Tuesday	18th April	Anzac Day Remembrance Service 2:30pm
Friday	21st April	Public Holiday School Closed—Anzac Day
Tuesday	25th April	

Just a friendly reminder...

If your child has ASTHMA please ensure that you give their classroom teacher a:

- **NAMED PUFFER**
- **CURRENT ASTHMA PLAN SIGNED BY YOUR DOCTOR**
- **MEDICATION AUTHORITY FORM**



Sue is Safe



Rocky is Respectful



Ringo is Responsible

PARENTS & CARERS MORNING TEA AND INFORMATION SESSION

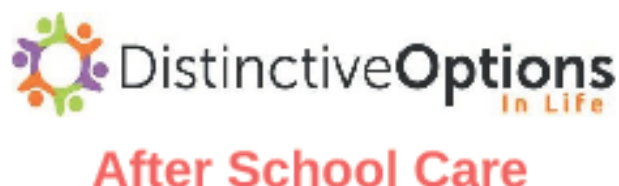
provider presentations and displays

**JOIN US
ON THE**

7TH

OF

MARCH



**MSS Allied Health Team
School Information**

**9:30am to
11:00am**

Come along for a lovely morning tea
and find out important information
from our guest speakers.
Everyone is welcome!

SIX STEPS TO GETTING RID OF HEAD LICE:

1 EXAMINE

First, look at the base of the hair around the ears and across the back of the neck. Then carefully check the rest of the head.



Examine everyone in the home for lice and nits. Separate the hair strands carefully. Nits are small, white to chocolate brown, oval-shaped eggs that are glued to the hair near the scalp. Nits are more easily seen than live lice.

Treat only those household members who have head lice.

2 TREAT

Treat the head lice with a lice treatment product. Lice treatment products are available over-the-counter at drugstores, grocery stores, and some medical clinics. These products will not kill all of the lice and nits, but they are the best way to get the process started.

Carefully follow the treatment's directions on the treatment or those of your healthcare provider.

Using more treatment, reapplying sooner than recommended, or keeping it on the hair longer than directed will not make it work better or faster and can increase the risk of toxic side effects.



3 COMB

After treatment, comb the hair with an effective, metal, lice-removal comb to remove the nits. Try to get every nit and any lice that you find.



Comb the hair in the opposite direction of normal brushing will help you find more eggs. Nit picking can also be done by hand, by using your fingernails or tweezers. Get rid of eggs in the sink, toilet, or garbage. Vacuum around the area where you were combing out eggs. Both people should change their clothes afterwards.

Comb, using the lice comb daily for seven days, and until you no longer find any lice or eggs.

This step takes the most time, energy, and patience.

Combing is the most important step!

Adult Louse



Actual size
1"
1/8"

4 CLEAN

Clean your home using normal methods, such as washing clothes, towels, and bedding; vacuuming floors and furniture; and soaking combs and brushes in warm, soapy water.

5 REPEAT

Most products recommend a second treatment 7-10 days after the first. Follow the directions just as you did for the first treatment. Afterwards, remove any eggs or lice that you might find.



Continue to check daily until 1 week after the second treatment or 1 week after the last egg or louse is removed.

6 NOTIFY

Notify everyone that may be affected:

- school
- church
- daycare
- friends
- family

We love getting outdoors while the weather is warm. The problem is – so do the mozzies. They're not just annoying; some mosquitoes can transmit serious diseases.

There are simple ways you can Beat the bite! and protect yourself and your family.

Many mosquitoes bite at dusk and dawn, but in some areas mosquitoes will also bite during the day.

Protect yourself

Wear loose-fitting clothing when outdoors

- Mosquitoes can bite through tight-fitting clothes.
- Make sure cuffs around ankles and wrists are firm.

Use effective mosquito repellents on exposed skin

- Products containing picaridin or DEET are the most effective. The greater the strength, the longer the duration of protection.
- Use repellents according to the product label, and reapply frequently, particularly after swimming, showering or heavy sweating.



Beat the bite!



Protect babies and small children

- Use mosquito repellents safely and follow the instructions on the product label.
- Never allow young children to apply their own repellent.
- Choose a lower strength repellent (no more than 20 per cent picaridin or DEET) and apply a thin, even layer as required.
- Cover their skin as much as possible.
- Dress them in loose fitting clothes.
- Drape mosquito nets over prams, strollers and infant carriers, ensuring there are no gaps.

Mosquito-proof your holiday

Ensure your accommodation is mosquito-proof

- Check that your accommodation, including caravans, are fitted with well maintained fly screens.
- Use mosquito nets in tents and cabins.

Don't forget to pack repellent and long, loose clothing

- Check you've packed plenty of mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET.
- Take long, loose-fitting clothes for all the family, including the kids.
- Take some mosquito coils or repellent candles – they can be effective in small outdoor areas.



Mosquito-proof your home

Try to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home

- Maintain fly screens on windows, doors and vents.
- Use 'knockdown' sprays, plug-in "zapper" vaporisers or mosquito coils.
- Ceiling or floor fans can reduce mozzies.
- Remember, try to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home in the first place!

Remove stagnant water so mosquitoes can't breed

- Remove disused pots and tyres.
- Cover or overturn trailers, wheelbarrows, boats and tools.
- Clean gutters and drains and mend leaking taps.
- Change pet drinking bowls, bird baths and vase waters at least once a week.
- Put sand around the base of pot plants.
- Keep swimming pools well maintained or empty.
- Keep fish ponds tidy with minimal vegetation.
- Keep lawns and gardens trimmed back.

Check your rainwater tank or water storage devices

- Water tanks must be completely sealed. Check lids, covers and inlet pipes for any gaps.
- Fit removable screen mesh to the outlet end of overflow pipes and to all inlets.
- Make sure any water collection containers have secure lids or screens.



Mosquito-borne diseases – the facts!

- Most mosquitoes are just a nuisance, but some spread disease.
- You can only catch mosquito-borne diseases from the bite of an infected mosquito. You cannot catch them from an infected person or animal.
- The best protection from mosquito-borne diseases is to avoid mosquito bites.
- Mosquito-borne diseases typically occur around inland waterways and coastal regions.
- Mosquitoes need water to breed. Heavy rains and flooding can bring more mosquitoes.



Mosquito-borne diseases in Victoria

Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus disease

The symptoms for Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus diseases are similar. Both can cause joint swelling and pain, fatigue, fever and rash. Everyone recovers, although some people can have symptoms on and off for a year or more.

Murray Valley encephalitis virus disease

Murray Valley encephalitis virus (MVEV) disease is rare but can be very serious. Encephalitis is a brain infection that can cause the brain to swell, leading to brain damage or death.

Most people who get the virus show no symptoms at all. For those that do, it can take around seven to 28 days between getting bitten and becoming sick. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, seizure (especially in young children), neck stiffness, drowsiness and confusion. In severe cases, delirium and coma can follow.

If you have any health concerns see your doctor or phone NURSE-ON-CALL 1300 60 60 24.

For more information contact your local council or visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au



If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please phone 1300 651 160 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required.

Order copies of this brochure online <<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/infectious-diseases-order-resources>>.

Also available as a PDF on the internet at <www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au>.

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Beat the bite!

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne diseases



For more information visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

RESILIENCE AND STRESS IN RAISING A CHILD WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER,
PROFESSOR RICHARD HASTINGS,
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK. UK.

These FREE seminars will discuss the important role of family and schooling in the lives of children and teens with an developmental disability.

Join the discussion with Professor Richard Hastings together with Associate Professor Kylie Gray and Dr Glenn Melvin from the Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology to talk about the challenges and priorities of raising happy, healthy children.

A light lunch will be served at the conclusion of the seminar.

Tuesday 28 March 2017

10am – 12.30pm
Bayside Special Development School,
Genoa St, Moorabbin
OR

Thursday 30 March 2017

10am – 12.30pm
The State Library of Victoria,
Seminar Rm 1, Swanston St, Melbourne

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/E0Dn2q> by March 20 2017
Phone: 03 9902 4557
kites@monash.edu

Kids & Teens at School – Giving a voice to parents of children & teens with an intellectual disability.

17P-0221, February 2017, Produced by Strategic Marketing and Communications, Monash University
ORNDOS provider: Monash University 0900SC.



Richard Hastings is a Professor and Cerebra Chair of Family Research in the Centre for Educational Development Appraisal and Research. His work addresses psychological difficulties in children and adults with autism or developmental disability, families, and educational supports.



The Diversity and Disability Program (DnD) and NDCO Program Presents

FREE PARENT & CARER WORKSHOP SERIES

For people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds who care for school-aged people with disability.

This is a opportunity to hear from guest speakers and learn about services and support available. It is also an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience. Workshops will cover topics including: education, employment, the NDIS, and carer wellbeing.

The workshops will be facilitated by Effie Meehan and Janet Curtain, who are parents with a lot of experience in disability. Information will be in plain English and translators can be arranged.

When

Tuesday 21st March (10.30am–12.30pm)

Tuesday 18th April (10.30am–12.30pm)

Tuesday 16th May (10.30am–12.30pm)

Tuesday 20th June (10.30am–12.30pm)

Where

Migrant Resource Centre North West

20 Victoria Crescent, St Albans

(Enter from Alfreda St, next to St Albans Library)

Morning tea will be provided.

To attend, please contact:

Christian Astourian

☎ 9367 6044

✉ christian@mrcnorthwest.org.au



National Disability Coordination Officer Program
An Australian Government Initiative



BRIGHT FACES PRESENTS

HANDWRITING AND LITERACY GROUP

TERM 2, WEDNESDAYS
4PM-5PM (26.4.17-14.6.17)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Sound-Letter Correspondence
Rhyming
Identifying Sounds and Where they are in Words
Syllable Segmentation
Pencil Grip
Letter Formation
Letter Recognition

\$100 per week*
(8 week programme)
DSS Funding or
Medicare rebates may
apply.

FACILITATED BY:

Gerard Mullan
(Speech Pathologist)
and Eleanor Hughes
(Occupational Therapist)

CONTACT:

CENTRE OF BRIGHT FACES
3/21 RESERVE RD, MELTON
CONTACT: 0410 207 995 OR
INFO@BRIGHTFACES.COM.AU

*Price and Medicare rebates may vary depending on enrolment numbers.

Max. 12 participants. \$100 deposit is required to secure a spot.



E: Info@brightfaces.com.au
M: 0410 207 995



Design a poster that celebrates harmony and diversity in our community.

There will be prizes in two categories: Under 7's and 8 – 12 year olds.

Winners will be announced at Council's Harmony Day Celebration, Saturday 18 March 2017

- Posters must be submitted at the Caroline Springs or Melton Library by Tuesday 14 March 2017.
- Nomination forms can be picked up from your local Neighbourhood House or the Libraries.
- Size of poster must be A4 or A3 only. Judges' choice is final.
- For further information p.9747 7200 and ask to speak to someone from the Neighbourhood Program team.



FREE EVENT WALK WITH HER

PRESENTED BY
MELTON WOMEN
MAKING IT HAPPEN

SUNDAY, 5 MARCH 2017
10AM REGISTRATION, WALK STARTS AT 12PM
HANNAH WATTS PARK, HIGH STREET, MELTON



LET'S WALK TOGETHER TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE RESPECTFUL AND EQUAL COMMUNITY

1 in 3 women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Help change the story and show your support for a safer, more respectful and equal community with the Walk With Her event. Choose a 2km or 4km walk around Hannah Watts Park.

REGISTER at <https://healthpromotion.events.mart.com> OR on the day from 10am.

Led by Melton Women Making it Happen, supported by Djerriwarrh Health Service (DJHS).

DJHS is committed to being a workforce and community leader in the prevention of violence against women. We believe it is everyone's role to challenge attitudes, beliefs and cultures that support violence.

Be sure to join in on Clean Up Australia Day and the Market Day hosted by Webbs Events before your walk, from 9:30am.

For more information contact Lisha:
lisha@djhs.org.au | 9361 9360

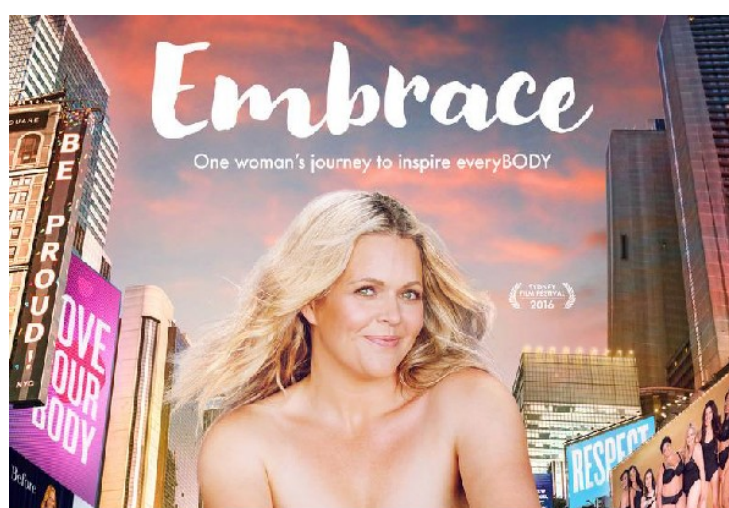
[/healthpromotionatdjhs](https://healthpromotionatdjhs)



For support and information regarding family violence phone 1800RESPECT

Embrace

One woman's journey to inspire everyBODY



You are invited to a FREE screening of Embrace, as part of Council's International Women's Day celebrations.

This powerful documentary uncovers why poor body image has become a global epidemic and what women everywhere can do to have a brighter future.

COST: FREE

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

To book, or for more info, visit: melton.vic.gov.au/embracemovie

ENQUIRIES: sarahgr@melton.vic.gov.au | Phone: 9747 7200

DAY SCREENING:

WHEN:

Tuesday, 7 March

TIME:

12pm - 2pm

WHERE:

Reading Cinemas Melton
Woodgrove Shopping Centre
533 High St, Melton West

EVENING SCREENING:

WHEN:

Wednesday, 8 March

TIME:

7pm - 9pm

WHERE:

Reading Cinemas Melton
Woodgrove Shopping Centre
533 High St, Melton West



SAFER CITY DAY

10AM TO 2PM / SATURDAY 04 MARCH 2017
CS SQUARE, CAROLINE SPRINGS / LAKE CAROLINE



FREE Face Painting

FREE Jumping Castle

FREE Animal Farm

FREE Child restraint and anti-theft number plate screw fittings

PLUS Loads more FREE activities

MEET Your local community safety services from Victoria Police, CFA, Djerriwarrh Health Services & Melton City Council

FREE CHILD RESTRAINT FITTINGS!



For more information: www.melton.vic.gov.au

[/healthpromotionatdjhs](https://healthpromotionatdjhs)
[/healthymelton](https://healthymelton)



Ecolinc Sustainability Expo Sunday March 26th 2017 10am - 3pm

Ecolinc Science & Technology Innovations Centre

17 - 23 Labilliere St, Bacchus Marsh

Phone: 5367 0171 or email Ecolinc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://vr.ecolinc.vic.edu.au/>

A free family-friendly event with:

- Guest Speakers
- Talk to the 'Techsperts'
- Farmers/Sustainability Market
- 'Hands on' Workshops
- Educational Demonstrations
- Arts & Crafts
- Food & Drinks
- Competitions
- Unplugged concert





Thanks to all our 2016 & 2017 Sponsors **Immune Deficiency Foundation Australia (IDFA)** are proud to present our comedy variety show **"RAZZAMATAZZ"**. This sponsored event is for the entertainment of Special Needs and Disadvantaged Children and their Carers/Families throughout Melbourne & has been paid for by local businesses so you can enjoy the show completely FREE!

There are plenty of tickets for everyone so please ensure you ask for as many as you need.

ONE DAY ONLY: SUNDAY 29th APRIL 2017 1:00pm 4:00pm
(90mins)

Melbourne Convention Centre, Plenary Hall 1, Convention Centre Place,
South Wharf Melbourne

Tickets are available for DATE/TIMES now

Although seating is not allocated, provisions have been made for wheelchairs and those who are vision or hearing impaired.

**THERE ARE 25 TICKETS AVAILABLE PER SESSION
PLEASE INDICATE WHICH SESSION YOU WILL ATTEND**

Wheelchair tickets: solely for wheelchairs (assisting in wheelchair access & seating allocation)

Carers/Family tickets: for children, carers and all other family members

PLEASE RETURN TO JANINE BY FRIDAY 10TH MARCH 2017

Childs Name: _____

Teacher/Class: _____

Session Required: **please circle**

1pm

4pm

Number of Tickets Required: _____