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DATES TO REMEMBER

BOOK WEEK	AUGUST 21st - 27th
TEETH ON WHEELS	FROM AUGUST 23rd
MSS BOOK FAIR	SEPTEMBER 6th - 10th
FINAL DAY TERM 3	SEPTEMBER 17th

 **COMPASS**
School Manager



 Melton Specialist
School
@meltonspecialistschool.5162

Edition 8 - Tuesday 27th July 2021

Dear Families,

Strangely here we find ourselves again, amidst Remote Learning #5. When Term 3 started, like you, I had no idea this would be the focus of my first newsletter of the term, given my last newsletter of the term centred around the lifting of restrictions. Once again, I find myself feeling so proud of our School Community. The resilience of parents/carers, students and staff is nothing short of amazing. Thank you to all our families for stepping up once again, to translate our remote learning matrices into manageable activities for your child. Thank you to the staff who worked incredibly quickly to get information and support to our families. We hope this is over as quickly as it popped up!

Current restrictions

Currently no families can be onsite

- School Tours are not allowed
- Masks are compulsory both indoors and outdoors
- Non-essential visitors are not allowed

I look forward to updating you with the easing of restrictions this term.

Remote Learning

During Remote Learning #5, the DET has made it mandatory for staff to contact students/families every day to check in on everyone's Well Being. This can be done in a class WebEx session or through SEESAW chats and on the phone. We understand that some families may find this overwhelming or unnecessary – please be mindful that staff have been directed to make this contact frequently. We will do our best to accommodate your needs and be flexible however we are being made to record well-being check ins as part of accountability requirements.

COMPASS/SEESAW

It is essential that you are connected to the school and your teachers via COMPASS and SEESAW. This is how we communicate with you and your child and provide updates and work during periods of remote learning or extra supports at any other time. Your teacher or a member of the leadership team will be in touch with you this week to discuss your communication options and how we can support you with installing and logging in to COMPASS or SEESAW.

Staffing Update

This term we farewell Lina as she takes leave for 12 months. We welcome experienced teachers, Jennifer and Marcie. Jennifer will join our Prep team and Marcie will replace Lina.

Parent Opinion Survey

WE WANT OUR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS/GUARDIANS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

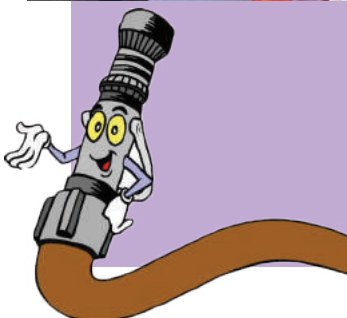
Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents/caregivers/guardians think of our school. The Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst parents/caregivers/guardians (previously known as the Parent Opinion Survey). It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of families' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

The survey will be conducted online, only takes 20 minutes to complete, and can be accessed at any convenient time within the fieldwork period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

Best wishes everyone, take care and stay safe!
Brooke

NEWS FROM P14

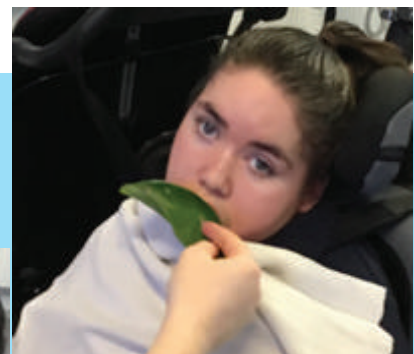
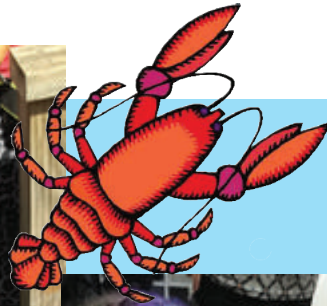
P14 has had a great start to the first half of the year. They have been working hard at school. Some focuses have been exploring different letters and their sounds, reading skills, writing skills, and working hard on their ILP goals. They were very excited when the fire truck came to visit the school. The young people in P14 enthusiastically explore the fire truck including getting to spread water! We are so proud of all their achievements this semester!



Happenings in TR1



TR1 has had a great year so far! We had an exciting day at Blackwood doing the high ropes course and the flying fox. We even caught a few yabbies! We have enjoyed many sensory experiences including sensory stories, art, messy play, foot spas, making and tasting smoothies, tasting new foods, listening to music, and making music using the keyboard. We especially love music therapy with Brede and interactive stories with Sarah. A highlight of our day is going on the basket swing or the trampoline in the playground.



NEWS FROM S4

S4 have been focusing on working as part of a team and having respectful relationships. When we went to camp, this was a perfect opportunity to encourage others, respect their opinions and have fun while doing this!

We took part in bushwalking, bush-cooking, flying fox and high ropes. S4 had an awesome time at Sovereign Hill and loved the evening train ride to the Aura night show where we learnt where gold came from. Wearing the 3D glasses was the best part! In class we have continued to do some team building activities with lego.





Travel Training S12

Our first day back in Term 3 was a blast! S12 went to Zone Bowling at Watergardens to shake off their holiday 'snoozies' and get their 'competition on'!

In a tight run bowling game Shelby brought it home for the girls with a convincing and gracious win and Dash took no prisoners in the laser tag. I would like to say that Dash was humble in his victory, however, he was not! We are still hearing of his gun wielding prowess a week on. However, with lunch provided, we all had a great day out!

Peta Kay was assigned our travel leader and she ably directed us from Melton SS to catch a bus to Albion. From there we were directed onto a train that took us to Watergardens. Our return journey again led by Peta Kay took us from Watergardens on the train to Sunshine train station which in turn returned us back to Melton.

Great job Peta Kay!



LASER TAG SCORE

Graduation

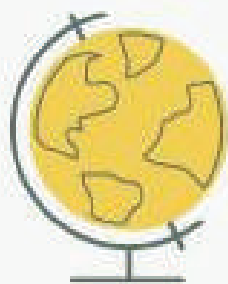
S12 are in full swing prepping for the 2021 Graduation. They are using their Personal Development Skills session to form focus groups and have already short-listed various music preferences, creating a survey for the rest of the year 12 graduates which will be conducted over the coming weeks, along with food choices, a theme and hopefully a venue.

Great work so far S12!

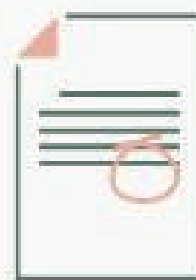


S12 have also been tasked this year with coordinating the Year 12 School Jumpers and have shown great enthusiasm. We are incredibly lucky to have a great mix of leaders and creative minds in our class. Dash and Louise are very excited to see the final designs.

YEAR 12 SCHOOL JUMPER 2022



A DAY IN THE LIFE...



ROLE: BUSINESS MANAGER

8:00 am	Start work
8:00 am - 9:00am	Check emails, check in with various staff about human resources or finances Bus duty when the buses arrive
9:00 am - 12:30pm	Oversee school administration team Attend DET meetings and training Manage school budget and all finances Process payments, invoices and receipts Ensure we comply with regulations Update school policies
12:30pm - 1:00pm	Lunch break
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Advertise available jobs and take any job enquiries Manage interview panels Attend school meetings Assist families with CSEF enquiries
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Bus duty
3:00pm - 4:00pm	Check emails Follow up with staff about budgets, orders and human resources Attend any meetings
4:00pm	Hope to finish work on time



Bree

MSS ALLIED HEALTH HERE'S THE SCOOP!



SHOUT OUT!

See what's been happening in Speech Therapy...

Students in P20 using Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) to communicate during class activities. They are using PECS to choose which colour spot they want for their dinosaur 😊 Awesome job at using PECS!!!



P9 using Key Word Sign during a singing session. They love singing '5 speckled frogs' and 'Hey diddle diddle' 😊 Fantastic signing!!!



MSS ALLIED HEALTH HERE'S THE SCOOP!



Key Word Signs of the Fortnight



Key Word Sign is a great way of communicating that uses hand signs to represent the main or key words in a sentence at the same time as the words are spoken. It encourages and supports language development.

Here are some hand signs you can try at home. Have fun!



Come

Bend dominant hand at third knuckles, palm toward body, several times. Same for 'come here'. (Natural gesture).



Go

Swing slightly cupped dominant hand forward in relevant direction. Finish with straight fingers. *With directionality.



Help

Place dominant hand bent at third knuckles, palm down, onto non-dominant palm. Or may place dominant hand onto non-dominant hand, palms together. Move formation forward. * With directionality.



Listen

Place a slightly cupped dominant hand behind ear on same side, palm forward. (Natural gesture – mime the action).



Stop

Move open dominant hand forward, palm away from body, from shoulder height. (Natural gesture).



Wait

Bounce open dominant hand, palm down, in front of dominant side, twice. *May use both hands. (Natural gesture).

TERM 3 LIBRARY NEWS



Book Week August 21st - 27th

Each year across Australia, the Children's Book Council Australia (CBCA) brings children and books together by celebrating CBCA Book Week. During this week, we not only celebrate the world of literature, we also get a chance to have some fun with books. We get to embrace book characters and think about why particular characters become our favourites. We get to share stories with our families and our classmates. We get to meet characters like Specky Magee, Cinderella, Harry Potter, Blinky Bill, Hairy Maclary, Charlie, Hansel and Gretel and lots, lots more. Book Week will conclude on Friday August 27th, with the MSS children's book character parade.



MSS Book Fair September 6th - 10th

The Book Fair is just like having an exciting bookstore come into our school. Scholastic have a large variety of books from publishers worldwide to bring the best in children's literature to our school. There will be something for everyone. Each student is given a time to visit and explore the books on offer. Remember that every sale at the Book Fair will assist our school to purchase more books for our new library. More information will come closer to the event. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at the Book Fair.





TeethOnWheels™
a positive dental experience

We understand that visiting the dentist can be a daunting experience – but it doesn't have to be! Teeth on Wheels provide an on-site dentistry service to schools and childcare facilities within the greater Melbourne area.

Teeth on wheels will be visiting us on 23rd, 25th, 30th and 31st and the 3rd of September.

If you would like your child to be seen please use the link below:

<https://teethonwheels.com.au/consent-forms/consent-eform/>

Wonder Kidz

SPRING WONDERS

Wonder Kids are excited to introduce their spring holiday program to us at MSS. A sensory friendly program for ages 4 to 12. Wonder Kidz is a safe space where kids are loved and respected for who they are. This is the place where children can be their true selves, play, indulge their senses and connect with other children without being judged.

All with the bonus that YOU don't have to hang around and wait for them!!
YOU can chill out, have a coffee, make dinner or spend time with your other children.

Use the link below to secure a spot:
<https://forms.gle/pMkmpF3sngTDT3TDA>

UPDATE FAMILY DETAILS

It is important that the school always has your current contact details including address and telephone number and up to date emergency contact numbers. To notify of any recent changes, please either contact the school office on 9743 496, update via the compass app or write a note in your child's diary.

