

159-211 Coburns Road  
MELTON 3337  
03 9743 4966  
melton.ss@education.vic.gov.au

**Bacchus Marsh**  
Coaches

**ABSENCE LINE**  
**03 5366 3444**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

BOOK WEEK	Affected by lockdown Dates TBA
TEETH ON WHEELS	Affected by lockdown Dates TBA
MSS BOOK FAIR	NOVEMBER 15th - 22nd
FINAL DAY TERM 3	SEPTEMBER 17th

 **COMPASS**  
School Manager



 Melton Specialist School  
@meltonspecialistschool.5102

Edition 9 - Monday 16th August 2021

Dear Families,

The last newsletter we distributed we were discussing our wonderings around the quick entry into Learning from Home #5 and here we are, a week later in Remote Learning #6. Again, I remind you that we are here to help. Whilst we know and understand that these measures are to keep us all safe and that it has worked time and again, it does not take away the frustrations, concerns or boredom that may have entered your house. Our staff are available even just to check-in. It may be just a friendly ear that you need, or there could be other ways we can help - please let them know. Can I just say that despite the ongoing disruption to your child's learning, I am confident that our staff are doing their best to think of creative and fun ways to reduce this impact and we will be ready to welcome your child back as soon as we can to get working!

### Well- Being Webinars

Headspace have developed an online webinar for parents and carers during Lockdown. I have copied the link below for you to check out. We are also encouraging all our Leaders and Staff to watch the well being webinars for school staff, so they are able to support each other and you through these challenging times.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fw3LzWe-93U>

### Current restrictions

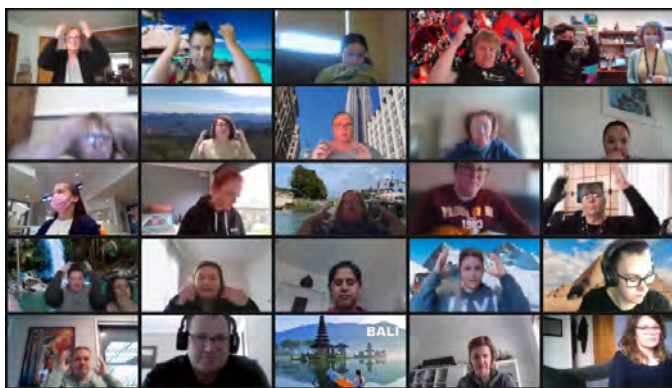
Currently no families can be onsite.

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

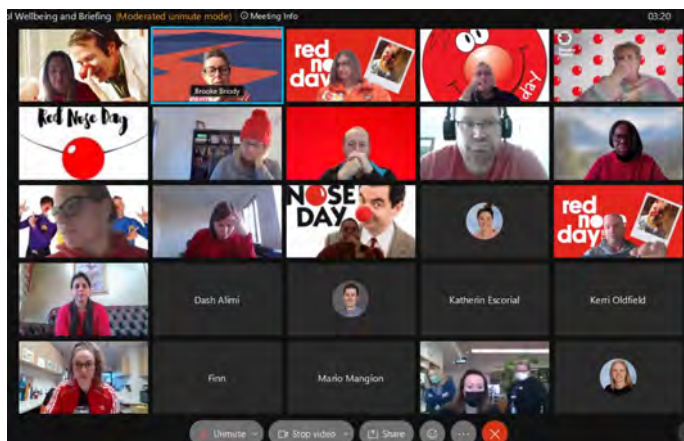
I look forward to updating you with the easing of restrictions this term.

### Remote Learning

There have been some amazing pieces of evidence of how resilient our young people are during tricky times. I have really enjoyed visiting some "kitchens, bedrooms, cubbies" around our community. Thank you for welcoming our teams into your homes. We have also been taking this opportunity to do some extra Professional Learning for our new and existing staff. Staff have been working on our School Wide Positive Behaviour Supports and implementing elements of Structured TEACCHing. Every morning our staff are involved in a whole school briefing online where we provide updates, answer questions and share new learnings like our Key Word Signing - we have been practicing every day so that when the students are back we are more confident - Big thank you to the Speech Team!



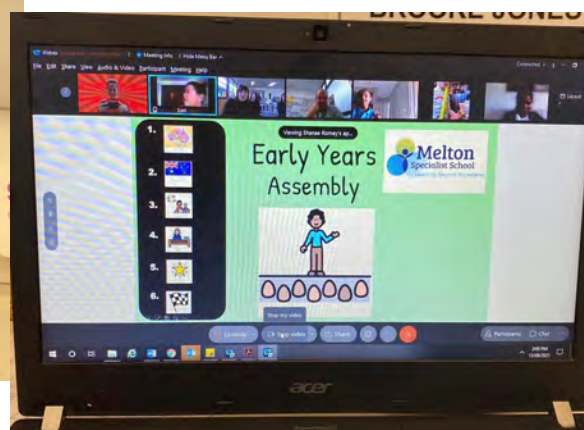
Key word signing



Supporting Red Nose Day



School assemblies



## REMINDER - 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.

The survey can be found here: <https://www.orima.com.au/parent> and enter the School PIN: 779958

Best wishes everyone, take care and stay safe!  
Brooke

# P13 KEEPING ON THE MOVE

Students in P13 have been enjoying completing a variety of structured movement activities throughout the course of the school day. It has been great to see the progress the students have been making in completing these activities more independently. Whilst also seeing the positive impact short movement breaks have on student learning in the classroom.

Some activities students have enjoyed doing are scooter board, balance beam, bean bag throw and many other gross motor skill activities. These activities have also come in handy during remote learning where students have been completing similar activities at home.





# AMAZiNG WORK iN P4

P4 have settled in well to their first year of school. They have had been working hard on a variety of learning activities, letter sounds, reading together, writing, counting and their ILP Goals.

In the first half of the year we learnt about our school and local communities. We went for walks around the school and for drives on the bus around the local community. We saw the firetruck that came to school and had a lovely visit from some friendly local police. The police ladies had some great activities for all the prep students; colouring in and dress ups. They even took the students finger prints! And the students got to put the lights and sirens on in the police car.

P4 have been working on their communication and turn taking skills during Nursery Rhyme Time. Everyone has been doing a great job waiting their turn and picking a song of their choice.



## P4 YOU ARE ALL SUPER STARS!



# Getting creative with S13



Students in S13 are contributing to their two main projects: Graduation and their senior Jumper. Year 11 students are working together to design a jumper to wear next year. We believe the jumper will help the students represent our school when they are in public as well as celebrate their soon-to-be final year achievement. We are also organising a Graduation ceremony for the end of the year. The students are working really hard and putting in a lot of effort to make sure the two projects are successful.

S13 students have also learned about different skills important in the workplace. Such as communication, teamwork, problem solving, self-management, planning and organising. While learning, students can share their opinions and knowledge about these skills in group discussions as well as analysing scenarios in which different skills are exhibited.







# 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!



Paralympic Games



Tokyo



Compete



Gold



Silver



Bronze



If you have any questions for any member of the Allied Health Team, contact MSS on 9743 4966.



CELEBRATING THE

# NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDRENS DAY

The students of S8 were excited to celebrate the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander childrens day this term. They chose their own activities for the occasion. These included dancing, singing, reading dreamtime stories, decorating boomerangs and hand prints and even cooking!

Students were able to learn the importance of culture and some of the items that symbolise indigenous Australia like the didgeridoo, boomerang and hand prints. The activities taught students to embrace other cultures and to live together harmoniously. Students learnt about the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, dreamtime stories as well as dancing, which was thoroughly enjoyed!







# CREATIVE ARTS VICTORIA AND MSS

It is with great excitement that MSS is finally allowed to announce that we have been successful in obtaining a grant to the equivalent of 40,000 dollars from Creative Arts Victoria to fund a creative worker in MSS. Some might call it an artist in residence program. That creative worker is First Nations Artist – Mandi Barton. We are the only school in this region to have been successful in our application – hats off to the MSS community!

The project ties into the NAIDOC theme of caring for and healing country, helping the teachers of Melton Specialist School embed Aboriginal perspectives into their classrooms, and connecting art and wellbeing together. Things have been slow due to lockdowns and restrictions, but here are some photos of Mandi working with teachers and students in Ivette's class.



**MANDI BARTON**

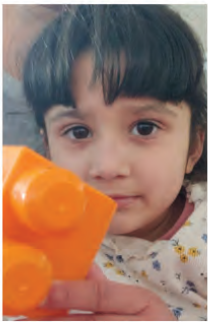


# UPDATES *from* SUB SCHOOL 1



Omisha has been working very hard at home and posting on seesaw every day. She built this huge tower and even counted the number of items, 19!! Well done Omisha

Dyrell has been listening to and joining in with our daily storytimes



Zareena found something orange.

Zareena has been doing all the activities during remote learning. She participated in our Webex session this week



Out for a walk in the bright yellow flowers.



Something hard and something soft.




10	10
10	10
10	10
10	10



**Dorcas and Maddy have been equally busy on Seesaw.  
Working very hard on writing, counting and sorting.  
Great work this remote learning Girls.**

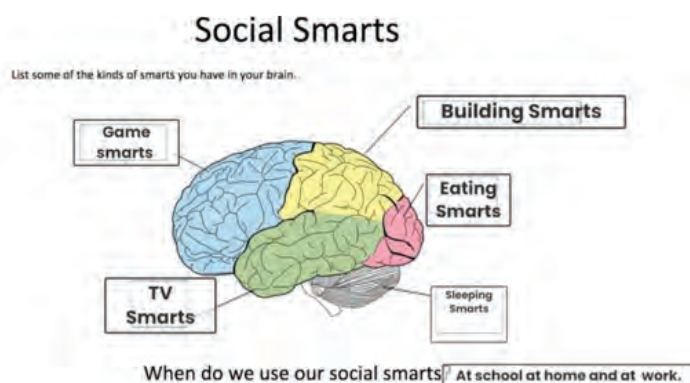
# UPDATES *from* **SUB SCHOOL 2**

It's been such an unpredictable time for much of this year as we've headed in and out of lockdowns and periods of remote learning. It's been amazing to see the levels of flexibility and resilience that our students, families and staff continue to show as we adapt to teaching and learning in different settings.

The work has been varied; sometimes focussing on ILP goals, on Victorian Curriculum and also on developing Independent Living skills. Students have used a variety of mediums to show how they've been working; we've seen students and families filming themselves completing their work and looking for feedback, physical resources have suited others and some of our students have continued to engage through SeeSaw and Webex.

In Webex meetings, some of the senior classrooms in Sub School Two have worked together focussing on Social Thinking, and learning about the "different kinds of Smarts"; how we all have our strengths (or "Smarts") and identifying what they are; resilience, flexibility and adaptability have to be on the list for all of us this year!

Well done everyone on demonstrating your Smarts over the last two weeks!



**DAILY CHECK IN**

Circle the date

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

What is something that made you smile yesterday?

Rate your day yesterday:

1 Amazing 2 3 4 5 Not amazing

What zone are you in today?

Blue zone	Green zone	Yellow zone	Red zone





# UPDATES *from* SUB SCHOOL 3

Students in our Senior Secondary Programs completing their VCAL and ASDAN certificates have been trialling a new routine of learning. Students attend three online WebEx lessons a day where teachers deliver programs and assign independent tasks while remaining online to assist in live time to continue to work towards achieving their certificates.

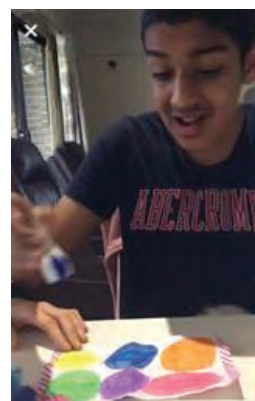
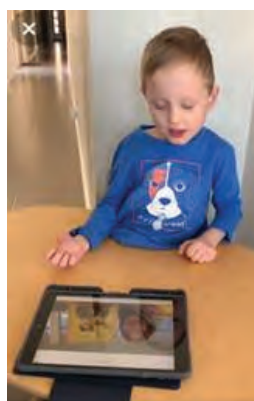
Please remember to take care of yourselves and reach out to your teachers or wellbeing team if things are feeling a little tough – we are here to support you!



# UPDATES *from* SUB SCHOOL 4

This term students in sub school 4 have coped with the many changes from onsite to remote learning like absolute champions! Families and carers have done an incredible job in working with our staff to provide students with some engaging and practical activities during the remote learning period. We have loved seeing the creativity from our parents throughout the different tasks that have been assigned; from daily yoga and fitness sessions to going for a walk through a beautiful field of flowers. We have loved seeing so many students participating in WebEx sessions and Seesaw tasks.

We understand that it hasn't been easy, but we appreciate everyone's efforts in keeping our community safe and our students engaged with remote learning. Even with all of these changes, it is so amazing to see the smiles on our students' faces!



## STEPS to Employment

### Are You A School Student? Would You Like Support With Getting A Job?

We are looking to work with students to help them find part-time, or casual employment, whilst they are at school.

#### About the Project

Onemda has received funding to help improve employment outcomes for young people with intellectual disabilities. Our project will help students in:

1. **Getting Jobs** - Creating opportunities for students with intellectual disability to participate in part-time jobs (both paid and unpaid) whilst at school.
2. **Working Together** – building a framework for collaboration to support students with intellectual disability to find and keep a job whilst at school.

The **Getting Jobs** program will include:

- Linking the student to suitable work opportunities in their local community. Work shifts might be after school, or on weekends.
- Providing any support required by the student to help them participate in their work placement.
- Education workshops for students, families and school around employment and building employability skills.
- Support to the student and their family to access other services and supports that might be needed to help the young person on their employment journey.
- Develop peer support opportunities for young people to learn from and support each other on their employment journey.
- Tailored support will be provided by an Employment Service Connector who will work with the student and their family, school and employer throughout the program.

#### Program eligibility requirements

- Have an intellectual disability
- Attend a Special School (be in their final 3 years of schooling)
- Have an interest or desire to work

#### Cost

- There is no cost to be involved in this program.
- Participants will be supported to gain appropriate NDIS funding if a 1:1 support worker (employment buddy) is needed to support them in their workplace.

#### Please register your interest

If you are interested in being part of this program, please contact Project Lead – Megan Dodds via email [mdodds@onemda.com.au](mailto:mdodds@onemda.com.au) or call 9842 1955

We will be running information sessions for people to learn more about this project – if you would like to attend, please contact Megan to register your interest.



### 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.



### UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop will run by appointment only during Term 3. If you are requiring uniform please call the office on 9743 4966 to make a time.

Due to the recent restrictions, students will be unable to try on the uniform items, however feel free to bring in a personal clothing item to help compare sizes.

We also are unable to exchange items for different sizes after purchase. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Preferred payment is Bank Transfer or we can accept correct Cash.

### CHECK OUT OUR SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE!

Remember to "like" Melton Specialist School on Facebook to stay up to date on the latest news and activities. You can also download the school newsletter to see what is coming up on the school calendar.



collaboration to support students with  
hilst at school.

ities in their local community. Work shifts might