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Coaches

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DATES TO REMEMBER

FINAL DAY TERM 3	SEPTEMBER 17TH
FIRST DAY TERM 4	OCTOBER 4TH

 **COMPASS**
School Manager



Newsletter Edition 11 - Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Families,

This newsletter takes us to the end of the Term 3. We are crossing fingers and toes and anything else that can be crossed – that we get an announcement for a return to school in Term 4! As soon as we have any news, the leaders will make a plan, discuss with our staff and communicate with you all. I know that it doesn't really feel like a holiday period, but I hope you all get a chance to do something restful, fun and relaxing – hopefully there's some sun so we can all enjoy a picnic!

Staffing Changes

This term we farewell some of our amazing staff who are leaving to try out new schools or to bring new family members into the world! Best wishes and stay in touch to: Jocelyn, Tara, Justin, Nicola, Mary, Sarah B. We are still in the process of recruitment and will let individual families know what is happening as soon as we know. We apologise for the delay here, but COVID has had a real impact on the availability of staff to work in schools and processes are taking much longer than they have previously.

Campout Blackwood

Thank you to Tony and the staff at Blackwood who hosted an innovative approach to "camping" during a pandemic! I hope the families who participated in this event had as much fun as the team did whilst planning.

Buildings Update

It was exciting to be able to share the architects "under the roof" design for our stage 2 development of the senior secondary building. The staff have provided some great feedback and the overwhelming response was of excitement and positivity. The new building will include a staff room, 7 classrooms and 4 specialist spaces. There will also be a relocation of the horticulture area and new landscaping and designs. We are also in consultation with our local First Nations people to ensure we are embedding an indigenous perspective to our designs which recognise and celebrate the oldest continuous living culture in the world.

New Parent Feedback

This term we welcomed Jackie to our newly formed Student Engagement Team. Jackie has many years of experience as a social worker and is an amazing addition to our whole team. One of her first roles with us was to contact families who are new to the school. We have been overwhelmed by the positive nature of these responses and are so happy to be able to share this feedback with our staff and community. We know this has been an incredibly tough time for our community. For us to be able to celebrate the hard work and commitment our team has shown to our families, will be such a positive reward for us to take into the holiday period. Please see the word art below to read some of the feedback we have received.

Best wishes everyone, please have a safe a restful holiday.
Brooke

Good Thank you likes a lot
 mss best
 are happy thank you
 believe cares Wonderful loving life
 comfortable support likes
 Best supports smile
 Genuine Loving genuine nice
 School always love there communication Supporting
 happy Love good magnificent
 progress help Omg communicate not just a job wonderful Happier
 supported school don't feel guilty
 Great Fantastic
 teacher

Slides from the Bullying Prevention session to be implemented next term

The **Australian national definition of bullying** says:

Four Main Types of Bullying Behaviour:

-
- A graphic with a white speech bubble on an orange background. Inside the bubble, the text "BULLYING IS NEVER OK!" is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Surrounding the text are five stick figures: one on the left, one at the top, one at the top right, one on the right, and one at the bottom right. The figures are drawn in various colors (green, pink, blue, yellow) and are in different poses, some appearing to be in motion or interacting.

Defining Bullying

There are many other definitions of bullying, but most of them include the following three critical elements:

- 1 - An intent to harm
- 2 - A power differential
- 3 - Repeated incidents: not just once, but many times.

It is also important to remember that students may **STILL** feel bullied even if a critical element is not present!



It is important to note that all bullying behaviour is disrespectful, but not all disrespectful behaviour is bullying.

Stop - Walk - Talk

STOP WALK TALK is a prevention-centered school-wide system. There are three key elements to the STOP WALK TALK system.

1 - Stop!

Students discover the importance of making a direct request to "stop".

2 - Walk!

Students learn that when they feel they have been bullied and the situation is not improving, they need to "walk" away.

3 - Talk!

Students are taught to recognize when and how to effectively take action by reporting concerns to an adult.



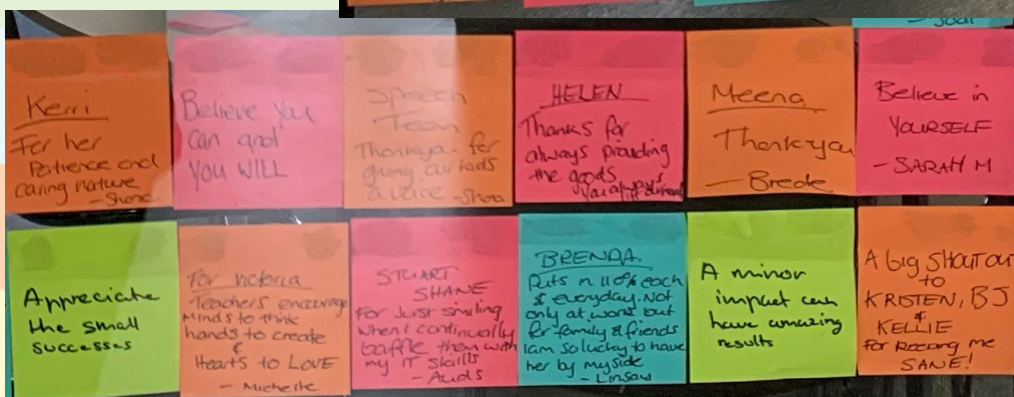
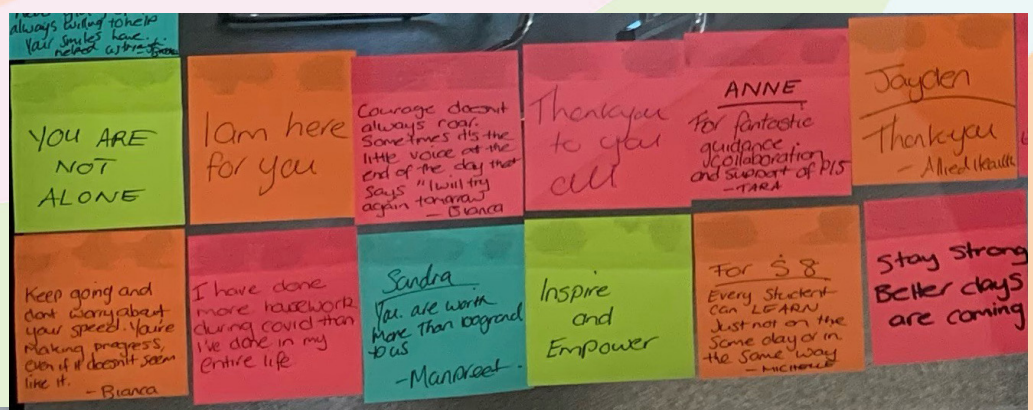


Staff Wellness

In recognition of R U OK Day this year the Allied Health team put together a wellness wall for staff, both on site and working remotely, so they could come together with positivity. MSS staff were encouraged to send over words of encouragement, inspirational quotes, positive shout outs to other staff or share something from their experience working remote. These messages were all hand written on to post it notes and displayed on the staff room window along with any photos.



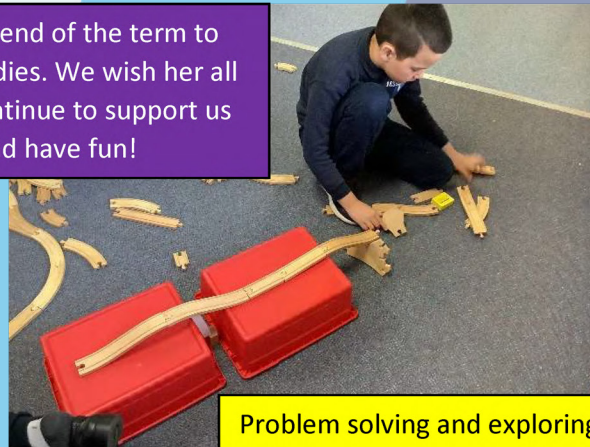
The result is a beautiful, bright compilation of joy that the team at MSS can admire throughout their work day. Thanks so much to the Allied Health team and all those that made contributions.





Making an animal habitat - Inquiry

Mary is leaving at the end of the term to continue with her studies. We wish her all the best. Rose will continue to support us to achieve our best and have fun!



Problem solving and exploring – Play program

Fun with P15

Tara, Rose, Mary, Lisa

Making spiral apples was very exciting!



At the end of the Term, I am moving to another school for a couple of terms. I will miss the students and look forward to hearing about their adventures. Tara

Getting creative with LEGO



Practicing writing in different ways



Developing fine motor and concentration. We welcomed Courage to our class in Term 2.

Fun and games in P7



This term P7 have enjoyed participating in structured play with our peers from P9 and P10. We have had lots of fun learning about dinosaurs and we were looking forward to our excursions to Sea Life Melbourne Aquarium, Werribee Zoo and Melbourne Museum! We're staying optimistic for next term.

It has been great fun learning to take turns, and follow rules and instructions as we played different games. Our favourite games have been Musical chairs, Freeze, Duck Duck Goose, Snakes and Ladders and 'What's The Time Mr. Wolf?'

We are looking forward to being with our friends again in Term 4.



Playing a game of duck duck goose



The suspense was real during musical chairs



Checking in on iL3

This semester the students in the Independent Living Classroom have learning to care for themselves and help out around the house. The students have been practicing their household skills such as learning to turn on the washing machine, hang, fold, sort and put clothes away. In the classroom the students have been making their own lunches and cleaning up afterwards. These are all tasks that the students have continued to do during remote learning at their own homes.

The Independent Living Class has also helped to deliver catalogues and notices to the classrooms across the school and helped to organise and clean the staff room and Food Technology classroom. We are looking forward to all being back on site at school again next term.



Yuvraj working hard to keep the tables clean



Daniel making himself a sandwich



A look at life in IL2



The Independent Living Centre has a strong focus on ILP goals, social and functional life skills. Students are expected to transition between three structured teaching spaces throughout the school day. The program involves a variety of ASDAN subjects in addition to literacy, numeracy, health and P.E, sensory science, tactile arts and recreation.

The Independent Living Centre program also encourages personal and social growth through positive interactions with their peers and all aspects of the program are underpinned by the ability for students to practice key elements of everyday living skills such as: making choices, self-advocacy, self-care and recreation. This year students have participated in a number of community based activities such as the Dogs for Life Program, Mini Golf, Bowling, BBQs at the Park, as well as National Reconciliation Week.

We hope you have a safe holiday break and can't wait to see all our students back at school!!



MSS ALLIED HEALTH HERE'S THE SCOOP!



SHOUT OUT!



See what's been happening in *Allied Health...*

How amazing is the MSS ACC choir?!

Choir is a way to support communication development and use of AAC across the school. It's also a really great way to connect with other students and staff and have fun being musical!

During remote learning, over 50 people have been joining our RMT and SPs every week to sing and sign together! We're so proud of all of the MSS musicians and we can't wait to sing with you again in term four!



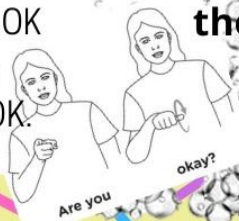
This year the students onsite participated in a number of activities for RUOK day. Which include the safe people hands, where students listed their 5 people they can talk to. Also, a number of colouring activities, where students made bunting to hang up around the school.



RUOK? DAY™
9 September 2021

We also hosted our very first parent drop and this is something we would like to continue offering in term 4.

Also, had a very special RUOK day music session for the primary students on Webex. Secondary students assisted in creating a RUOK video highlighting the importance of asking RUOK.



Watch this space because in term 4 the wellbeing team will be introducing a new page in the newsletter called "The Fizz". This is where we will advertise potential events, important dates, what is happening around the school, programs on offer, community contacts and support, and of course celebrating successes!



Key Word Signs of the Fortnight

Acknowledgement Of Country



MELTON

Finger spell the letter M.



SPECIALIST

Form an 'O' shape with the index fingers and thumbs of both hands. Hold these formations at shoulder height in front of the body and move forward twice with emphasis.



SCHOOL

Move open dominant hand, palm facing toward face, diagonally at same side of face as dominant hand, twice.



ACKNOWLEDGES

Touch the side of face with index finger, keeping it slightly bent as other hand is held flat. Then the palm of flat hand with the bent index finger.



the TRADITIONAL

Hold both hands above shoulder and move hands in a rolling motion across your body in a forward and down motion.



OWNERS

Start with a fist beside face and as you swipe hand across face, open fist into an open hand and stop at neck.



of COUNTRY

Place open dominant hand, thumb closed on forehead as if saluting. Move formation down and away from the body in a shallow zig-zag.



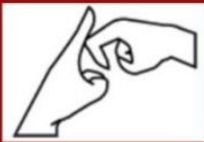
throughout AUSTRALIA

Touch tips of middle fingers with thumbs as though picking up something and as you move hands forward, release the fingers and flatten hands. Palms facing down.



and the PEOPLE

Extend dominant index finger. Brush formation down the tip of nose, twice.



of the KULIN nation

Finger spell the letter K.



ON which

Palms up, place back of dominant hand firmly on palm of non-dominant hand.



we LEARN

Form a 'V' shape with fingers and thumb and hold at forehead. Close fingers and thumb to touch.



WE

Point to self using extended dominant index finger and move the finger in a sweeping motion to indicate the others.



pay RESPECT

Hold thumbs in and hands flat with palms facing the body. Bounce both hands forward, twice.



to ELDERS

Crook and slightly spread index and middle fingers of dominant hand. Move this formation down in front of the nose.



PAST

Hold non-dominant hand flat vertically. Hold edge of the palm of dominant hand on non-dominant. Turn dominant hand forward at the wrist until reach 90°



PRESENT

Bend dominant hand at third knuckles. Place tips of this formation into non-dominant palm, then turn both formations up, while moving away from each other.



and FUTURE

Curve hand slightly with palm facing towards you. Circle hand forward in a quick motion next to cheek, twice.

SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



ONLINE

**ARE YOU A NDIS PARTICIPANT
AND ATTEND SCHOOL?**

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO
THESE HOLIDAYS?**

MORNING SESSIONS

10AM - 12NOON

MONDAY

Disco

TUESDAY

Karaoke

WEDNESDAY

Health & Fitness

THURSDAY

Chat / Catch up

FRIDAY

Karaoke

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

1PM - 3PM

Games

Games

Colouring

Disco

Movie Afternoon

Bookings

Bookings open at 10am the 10th of September 2021.

Enrolment form to be completed online.

Please make your bookings at:
melton.vic.gov.au/YoungCommunities

Cancellations

Activities may be altered or cancelled at late notice due to external factors, in this case families will be notified at the earliest possible time. If you are no longer able to attend an activity, please contact us.

COVIDSafe

Young Communities ensures that all activities adhere to DHHS guidelines with a COVIDSafe Plan implemented. It is your responsibility to advise staff on 9747 5373 if the young person is unwell or meant to be self-isolating prior to the activity, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of others.

Online

All sessions will be facilitated via Zoom and participants will receive a Zoom link once registered.

Questions?

Contact Young Communities on 9747 5373 or email youngcommunities@melton.vic.gov.au.

Stay up to date and follow us on Facebook and Instagram
[@CityOfMeltonYoungCommunities](#)



Young
Communities

Youth Holiday Activities

A range of FREE fun, recreation and conversation activities for young people aged 12 to 25.

20 September - 1 October 2021



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.

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.

