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DATES TO REMEMBER

DEC 10	DRESS UP DAY
DEC 13	GRADE 6 GRADUATION
DEC 16	LAST DAY TERM 4
DEC 17	2022 MEET & GREET (STUDENT FREE DAY)

 **COMPASS**
School Manager



Newsletter Edition 15 - Monday 6th December 2021

Dear Families,

We are nearly at the end of the year and can hardly believe that we only have two weeks to go. It has been so exciting to see all of the young people heading out on foot or buses to exciting excursions, community activities, camps and parks around the area. This takes a huge amount of staff time and effort so please join me in saying a big THANK YOU to our staff for their hard work and enthusiasm despite the rain, hail, thunderstorms and 35-degree days.

Successful grants winners

We are really excited to announce we have been successful at winning several grants this term. Firstly, we have won a shade sail grant for the back of the school. Secondly a Variety Club grant to fund a carousel for the play area and finally a well-being grant (for a very exciting program to be announced next year). Thank you to all the staff involved in applying for these grants and the extra work you have put in to ensure our students get access to different learning spaces and equipment to support their learning.

Graduations for years 6 and 12

The exciting time of year is here – our year 6 graduates are ready to celebrate by having their ceremony in the gym on Monday 13th December. After a “special lunch” there will be a live stream for all of our families to watch. Families are then welcomed to join their children at 3:30pm for photos and farewells. The students and staff are busy making decorations and collating photos for the ceremony.

Year 12 graduates will be having their ceremony off site this Friday at West Waters in Caroline Springs. This long-awaited event is something the students start discussing when entering senior secondary and something they very much look forward to. Look out for the amazing outfits!

Dress up day Friday 10th December

This year we postponed our book week dress up day due to remote learning. We will be holding the dress up day on Friday 10th December. All students are welcome to dress up as their favourite book character. Any students not comfortable dressing up are welcome to abstain and enjoy seeing the costumes from others. Thank you to Jess D for collating a list of Disney characters to prompt the staff to dress up – I love that I am set to be Merida from Brave!

Classes for next year

We have released lists to teaching staff this week. When classes are finalised and we have met all of the new students, we will hold a transition afternoon for students to meet their new class-mates and classroom staff. We have not confirmed all staff groups yet as we are still recruiting for the year. As always, we take the first six weeks of the year to see if we have the combination of students in a good fit. Please remember we will take on feedback during this time – please make contact with your new teacher.

Meet the teaching team 2022

Further details will follow. The event will be held online and not in person. Save the date 17th December 2021 – Student free day

Best wishes everyone,
Brooke

SIMONE THOMSON

• A R T •

Library Mural - Dreamtime Sky

Last week (15th/16th Nov) the school commissioned local Wurundjeri/Yorta Yorta artist and knowledge keeper Simone Thomson to bring Country inside the school. Her work *Awakening – Dreamtime Sky* is a magnificent and fitting mural that demonstrates the schools commitment to the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan DET VIC.

It is the physically symbolic awakening the school has had towards working with the LAECG (Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) in developing a Centre for Cultural learning in 2022/2023. This will be a revolution in the way Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded into the curriculum at MSS. The school is very excited to be at the forefront of this within the Brimbank-Melton educational region. Our deepest appreciation goes to Simone and the regional KESO's for helping the school work towards this.

<https://simonethomsonart.com/>



SIMONE THOMSON

• A R T •



Melton Specialist School Dreamtime Sky

At the time of creation, Bunjil the wedgetail eagle soared across the early dawn sky staring down to his newly created Wurundjeri Country. Wurundjeri Country was a magical beautiful land of crystal-clear rivers and lush green mountains, of spectacular deep valleys and eucalyptus filled bushland.

All the animals that lived on Country had great respect for their home. They took care of the land and only took from it what they needed. They didn't fight with one another, and everyone lived in harmony.

The language group for the Wurundjeri People is '*Woi-Wurrung*'. In the Woi-Wurrung language, the word '*Wurundjeri*' is broken into two parts. '*Wurun*' meaning the manna gumtree, and '*Djeri*' the white grub that lives in the tree, the witchetty grub. Wurundjeri Country is represented by the strong proud gumtree with the scar of the shield, and the witchetty grub that pokes from the beak of the kookaburra perched high.

Waa the crow, the Keeper of Wind and Water flies high keeping watch over Country making sure everyone respects the sacred waterways. His loud song can still be heard in the skies over Wurundjeri Country, Bunjil's beautiful creation.

Simone Thomson
Wurundjeri / Yorta-Yorta

SENIOR SECONDARY NUMERACY



Part of the VCAL numeracy program required the students to follow a simple plan to build a 3D model. We decided a bird house would be simple but fun to create. The bird house building came with many challenges. Some students had never used a hammer and nails before, some struggled to read a plan and put pieces on backwards. Some students bent several nails and many thumbs were hit along the way. It was great to see the students work through these challenges and create a sturdy bird house that they were all proud of.

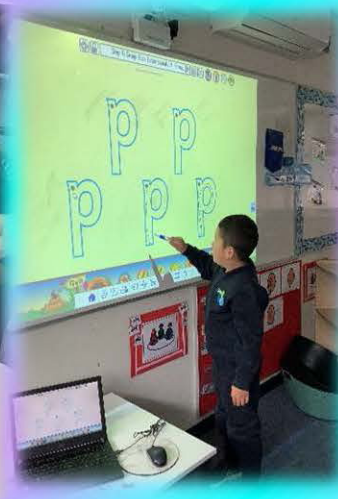
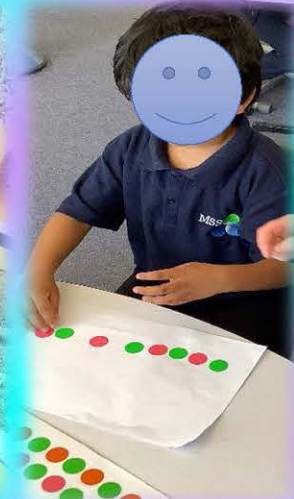




FROM



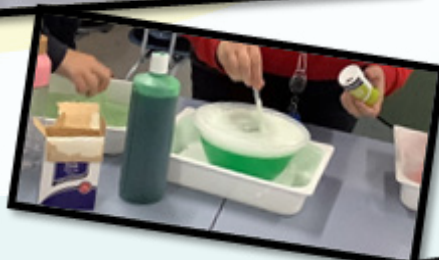
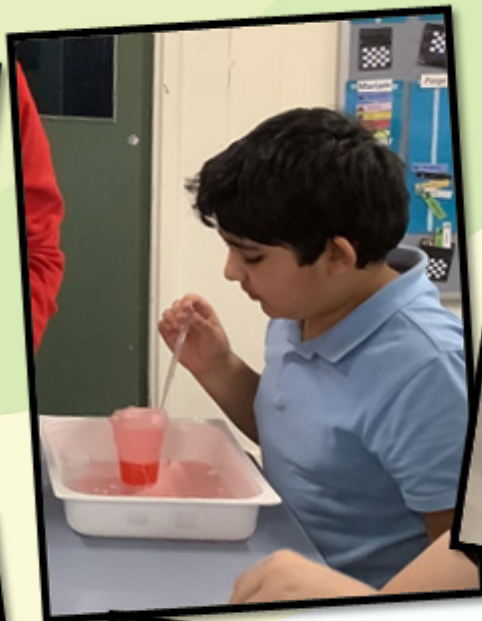
After doing some wonderful superstar work during Remote Learning, P3 has excitedly returned back to school this term and has settled in well with a wonderful work ethic. It has been great to see our friends again, play in the playground and to also participate in lots of fun learning and activities about 'Our Senses' again! We have also had a busy term so far completing some hands-on learning activities consisting of science, literacy art and craft. We have transitioned back into school with some fun activities for Halloween before focusing on learning about Patterns whilst also enjoying our weekly Jolly Phonics lessons. This term we have also enjoyed learning in different spaces around the school such as the library and the sensory garden. In addition to the fun activities, we also focused on getting back into our school routine by focusing on our play and social skills, our turn-taking and sharing skills, our individual schedules and also maintaining a safe and responsible learning environment. One highlight so far includes our recent trip to Bridge Road Park where we had so much fun and enjoyed the bus trip immensely! We are excited and looking forward to be going on more excursions and exploring Bridge Road park with the rest of the Prep cohort in the next few weeks!





News from P18

We are extremely proud of how quickly we have adjusted back to our classroom routines! This term, we have been doing lots of fun science hands-on activities to investigate physical and chemical changes. We have been using our senses to observe and understand the changes whilst showing safe, responsible and respectful behaviour in our group activities.



All Abilities Regional Inclusion Launch Day

**Sunday 28
November 2021**



Image ID: Two people playing sport and using wheelchairs

Want to try different sports? Come and Join in the fun on our All Abilities Launch Day. All abilities and ages welcome. Equipment provided. Registrations essential

About

5 Councils in the West are coming together to launch the All Abilities regional Inclusion week. We invite all ages and abilities to come to the Altona Sports Centre for an opportunity to try different sports and activities. We have Blind Football/ Football, Tennis, Lacrosse, Badminton, multi-sports, Ten pin Bowling, Cricket and a Chill-out zone – you will get the chance to try them all. We will put people into supportive groups of the same age so that you can have a go at each of the activities together. **All activities are free.**

Details

When: Sunday 28 November 2021

Time: Activities will begin at 2pm.

Where: Altona Sports Centre

Check in: Check in will begin at 1:30 pm.

Cost: Free

Register

ALLERGY UPDATE

A reminder to parents that any students displaying symptoms such as; a runny nose, sneezing or coughing, will be sent home. While these can often be symptoms of hayfever, they could also mask symptoms similar to illness or COVID-19. If your young person suffers from hayfever it is important that you are taking measures to keep symptoms at bay before bringing them to school.

DRESS UP DAY

On **Friday December 10th**, Melton Specialist School will be having a **dress up day**. The theme for the dress up day will be **book characters**. Students can come to school dressed in their favourite book character costume. There will be kids dressed up as animals, princesses, superheros, Harry Potter characters and a lot more. Students will also be able to show everyone their favourite character during a parade within each of the sub schools.

WE ARE A SUN SMART SCHOOL

All students must bring a hat to school during terms 1 and 4 for outdoor play. While many children do not like to wear hats. Persistence is needed to teach them that a sun protective hat is part of their outside routine. If a hat is on, the outdoor fun is on! Remember children are more likely to wear their hat if you do too.



MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

A reminder to all families to collect any medications your young person may have stored at school. Please ensure a parent or carer picks up any prescriptions in classrooms before the end of term. At the end of the school year the classrooms are cleaned out and any medications left will be disposed of.