A warm welcome back to the 2015 school year and a special welcome to all those new families enrolling in Mansfield Primary School for the first time.

A special welcome also to Ms Laura Westwood, our new Year 6 teacher. Laura graduated from La Trobe University with a long list of Honours and Distinctions last year and we are fortunate to have her working with the upper school team and those students this year. I trust that Year 6 parents will make themselves known to Laura and ensure she feels a part of the team here at MPS.

Thank you once again to all families for the wonderful way in which you have supported the children’s return to school by purchasing the book pack. We know there have been some issues with the packs, not our fault, just an issue in far as catalogue numbers is concerned.

We only have a small number of families who have still to collect and pay for books. There is also provision for families to enter into a payment plan for payment of school fees and other costs if you need that support.

Our new Preps looked sensational in their new uniforms and it was so great to see so many of the girls in dresses. Last year we asked that parents ensure their children were in correct school uniform every day and already this year, the number of students in correct uniform is really pleasing.

It was just so pleasing to see our whole school in their beautiful red and navy blue uniform so regularly last year. It really sets a standard and says a great deal about how our...
students and community take pride in their school.

On a similar note, the new Year 6 Polo shirts look fantastic on our older Year 6 students. A special thanks to Ms Dunlop and Mrs Gray for all their hard work in collating, design and delivery of the orders.

This time last year we were sweltering in very hot conditions, so it’s been a delight to have the cooler days and nights to welcome us back to school. No doubt things will heat up before too long.

Parents are reminded that schools encourage students to have a water bottle at school. We know that students who are properly hydrated concentrate better and for longer.

PREP ENROLMENTS
Our new Preps have settled into school really well and it was extremely gratifying to see so many parents in the staffroom enjoying a cup of tea and coffee after dropping off their Prep students last week for the first time. There is a “Picnic in the Park” for all new families and Prep parents together with their children on March 20th commencing at 6:30pm at the eastern end of the Botanic Gardens on Mansfield-Whitfield Road. Just bring along your own Picnic and enjoy meeting staff and other parents.

BUS TRAVEL
There have been a number of changes made to the arrangements for bus travel again this year. Some bus routes have changed and there is a continuing push from PTV and the Department of Education to ensure only those students eligible, are travelling on buses.

UPDATE STUDENT DETAILS
Please ensure that your child’s medical details are current and up to date with the school office. Especially if your child is Asthmatic, Diabetic or has any form of allergic reaction.

Equally as important is to ensure that we have your contact and Emergency contact information up to date.

FENCES AND SECURITY
Parents will note that some of the gates and fences have been changed over the holiday period, to ensure all students are safe, parents and students are urged to keep external gates securely closed at all times. Your support of this request is much appreciated.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Parents will soon receive information about School Council elections which will take place soon. If you would like to get involved at school in a really tangible way, then nominating for School Council is one way. If you want further information please ask the school office or keep an eye out for the nominations form that will come home soon.

NEWSLETTER DATES
Our first official newsletter is February 5th and thereon the following dates:

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PARENT TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS
Parents are reminded that in the next few weeks, Parent Information sessions will be conducted. (Feb 16/17). Please keep these nights free so that you can attend. Details of the exact times will be sent home to all families next week.

HATS/SUNSMART
A reminder that during Term 1 students must have a hat to wear when outside. Hats are available at all times in the school office for $10.00.

LITERACY & MATHS RESOURCE
On our school website there is a link under resources and information for a link to a DEECD “201 Literacy and Maths Tips to help your child”. This resource is recommended as a terrific asset for tips that can assist your family with practical activities that will support your child’s learning at school.

Paul Volkering
Principal
**Canteen/Sushi**

Each family will receive a copy of the canteen order form for 2015. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday canteen orders are placed with the BP Roadhouse. On Tuesday and Thursday, Taki and Naomi (Harry & Hilary’s parents) from Sushi Field will provide sushi for students but please be aware that orders do need to be placed by Monday and Wednesday, which is the day before the students will receive their sushi.

**Grade 3 to 6 Swimming**

The Grade 3 to 6 Swimming program commences on Monday 9th February (next week) during PE lessons. Please ensure your child has their swimming gear on their swimming day.

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**Swimming Trials**

Mansfield district swimming trials will be held at the Mansfield Pool on Friday 13th February between 12:30pm to 1:30pm. This is for students who wish to try out for the Mansfield District Swimming Team. Students will nominate which strokes they wish to swim. Please ensure if your child is participating that they bring swimming gear on this day.

**Conveyance Allowance Claims 2015**

Parents/Guardians eligible for Conveyance Allowance in 2015 (reimbursement of private car travel costs). If you drive 4.8km or more to a school bus stop or to school without passing a school bus stop you may be eligible for Conveyance Allowance in 2015. Application forms are available at the School Office. Please submit application forms by 27th February, 2015 for reimbursement.

**Book Club 2015/Issue 1**

We offer this initiative as a way of promoting reading and fundraising for our school resources. If you wish to participate, simply complete the order form and return with payment to the Book Club lockers located outside the library. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Mansfield Primary School. Each student must have a separate order form.

The closing date for each issue will be published in the newsletter. This date is not always the same as the recommended date on the flyers. Commission raised is used to extend classroom resources throughout the school. Last day to accept orders will be Friday 20th February. No late orders can be accepted.

**School Banking**

Prep students will receive information packs today regarding the Commonwealth School Banking Program. Please check in your child’s bag for this information.

This service is available for all our families with information packs being available at the school office.

**School Banking Day is Tuesday.**

**New Volunteers Information Session**

Our Assistant Principal, Hazel Bell, will be conducting an information session for any parents or volunteers who would like assist in our classrooms. This session will be available in the school library on Tuesday 24th February between 2.30-3.30pm. Please note that this session is for new volunteers not existing volunteers.

**Uniform Shop**

Our uniform shop is operated by one of parents Louise Timmers (mother of Grace & Jake). Louise will open the shop on Tuesday mornings from 8.45 to 9.45 am. Orders can also be placed at the school office and Louise will deliver them to your child on the Tuesday if you are unable to come in on that day.

**Year 6 Graduation Movie 2014**

Grade 6 graduation movie will be available for collection at the office from Monday 9th February for those who paid last year. There are a couple of extra copies available if you would like to order, please see Lesley Dunlop.
EMERGENCY ALERT. BE WARNED. BE INFORMED.

If there is a bushfire, flood, severe storm or other major emergency near you, the emergency services may choose to warn you by text to your mobile or a voice message to your home phone.

Emergency Alert is the national telephone warning system. It uses the address where your phone is registered and the actual location of your mobile to reach you:

- when your home or school is near an emergency
- when you are travelling with your mobile near an emergency.

When the emergency services use the telephone warning system:

- a home phone within the warning area may receive a recorded voice message that begins with “Emergency, Emergency”, and/or
- a mobile phone that is switched on and in an area of mobile coverage may receive a text message.

The service is free and you do not need to register.

The warning message will tell you:

- which emergency service sent the message: eg CFA
- about the emergency and where it is
- what you should do to stay safe
- where you can get more information

All telephone warnings come from the official number:
+61 444 444 444

Example Text Alert

From: +61 444 444 444
EMERGENCY WARNING FROM CFA
Fire in Pohlners Road area. Visitors to Grampians National Park should leave now. Check local radio or visit emergency.vic.gov.au

Talk to your child about the Emergency Alert system.
If they receive a warning message on the home phone or a warning text on their personal mobile, encourage them to stay calm and show or repeat the message to a responsible adult they know, such as a relative or teacher.

If adults are not around, encourage them to follow the action given in the alert.

For more information about the system, visit emergencyalert.gov.au and watch the video (it’s in 30 languages)

In an emergency, do not rely just on your telephone for a warning:

- Stay aware of your surroundings
- Listen to local radio
- Visit emergency.vic.gov.au
- Download the FireReady app
- Go to facebook.com/cfavic
- Follow @CFA_Updates on Twitter

Free workshop for parents & carers of children with autism!

Preston - March 11 & 12

Register your place:

positivepartnerships.com.au

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

JUNIOR TENNIS 2015 SEASON

MANSFIELD TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ELIVEN'S STREET MANSFIELD

JUNIOR TENNIS

JOIN IN THE FUN SATURDAYS FROM 9AM TO 11AM

GAMES AND MATCHPLAY

SCHOOL AGE PLAYERS

MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
Transitioning to a new school or new school year can be a time when your child may require additional support. If you would like to discuss how you can support your child at this time we invite you to speak to one of our family counsellors.

You can contact us at Community Well-being - Family Services
10 Davies Street, Mansfield

PH: 5775 8576

MANSFIELD SHIRE
If you would like to make a donation but can’t participate donations can be made at Mark’s IGA or through cysticfibrosis.org.au/vic/

GUITAR LESSONS
Openings still available for Term 1
Call Chris
Ph: 0400 269 273
or
5777 3204
Term Rates Available

Want to play competition ten pin bowling?
Thursdays at 4pm.
Make your own team of 4 or we can put you in a team.
$15 for 2 games.
$10 registration.
Trophies and presentation night.
Ph. 0412 728705

Book Amnesty
Our take home reader numbers have depleted considerably. Please look under beds, in cupboards, on bookshelves and all over the house for books that belong to the school. They are identified by a capital letter from A-K on the back cover. These readers are a valuable resource. Please return books you find from last year to your classroom teacher.