**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- **February 5th**  
  School Assembly 3pm

- **February 8th to 26th**  
  Year 3-6 Swimming Program

- **February 11th**  
  District Swim Trials 10.40-11.40am

- **February 15th**  
  School Council meeting 7:00p.m

- **February 16th**  
  Parent helpers/ Volunteer information session 2.30pm-3.30pm

- **February 24th**  
  Division Swimming Seymour

- **February 26th**  
  Year 5/6 Melbourne Excursion

- **March 1st**  
  Parent Information Night (information to come)

- **March 2nd**  
  National Young Leaders Conference Melbourne Convention Centre

- **March 4th**  
  Whole school Buddy Day

- **March 9th**  
  Regional Swimming Shepparton

- **March 14th**  
  Labour Day weekend (public holiday - no students at school)

- **March 18th**  
  Picnic in the Park - 6:30p.m (School - Grand Opening of Pizza Oven)

- **March 21st**  
  School Council meeting 7:00p.m

- **March 24th**  
  Last Day of term. Students dismissed at 2:30p.m. NOTE Last day is Thursday

**PRINCIPALS REPORT**

**WELCOME BACK**

A very warm welcome back to the 2016 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 Kate Lockwood, Mr Brad Hearn, Mr Cameron Hotton, Mrs Renee Kent and Ms Jennifer Driessen, new staff to 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 packs. We know last year wasn't perfect, so hopefully this year is an improvement.

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.

This term will be really short due to Easter being early. (Good Friday - March 25th). So school finishes on March 24th at 2:30p.m. Students return on Monday, April 11th.

Our new Preps looked sensational in their new uniforms and it was so great to see so many of the girls in dresses. It was also pleasing to see our whole school in their beautiful red and navy blue uniform so regularly last year, so keep up the great work. It really sets a standard and says a great deal about how our students and community take pride in our school.

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 amazing. A reminder that the correct school uniform includes the broad brimmed school hat! (No baseball style hats please!)
On a similar note, the new Year 6 polo shirts look fantastic on our Year 6 students. A special thanks to Ms Dunlop, Mrs Gray and the students for all their hard work in designing, collating 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 most good schools encourage students to have a water bottle with them at school at all times. We know that students who are properly hydrated concentrate better and for longer.

On a similar note if you want your child to bring sunscreen to school, that is acceptable; but ensure they only use it themselves and not offer it to other students.

Sunscreen is available to all children in their classrooms before any recess and during school excursions.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES 2016
At the moment we are still unsure if we can accommodate all students and interested parents in the Nobian building for Assembly. We had a trial Assembly last week without the Preps and just managed to get all students in. Tomorrow we are having an Assembly with all students and parents are welcome, but parents may have to stand!

Please be patient with us while we work through this issue. We’ll keep you posted on dates for Assemblies this year, once we know whether or not we can squeeze everyone in.

TRAFFIC SAFETY
Alarmanly we have parents with young students and toddlers in tow, walking behind and between buses after school in Apollo Street. We advised parents of this dangerous practice last year, yet it continues. All bus drivers have seen this going on and are alarmed that parents would not take a bit of extra time and cross at the crossing.

We’ve seen the consequences of walking between and behind buses previously, let’s not have a disaster happen at our school and make sure you use the crossing provided.

This practice should not occur and presents as a real danger to both parents and students.

Please make sure that if you are crossing Apollo Street, that you do so at the crossing.

Similarly, please do not park on the eastern side of Apollo Street during pick up and drop off times, below Minerva Street.

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 on Monday for the first time. There is a “Picnic” for all new families and Prep parents together with their children on March 18th commencing at 6:00p.m at school to open our new Pizza Oven. Just bring along your own ingredients and have some fun. More details on the new Pizza Oven to follow.

PIZZA OVEN - THANK YOU
A very special thank-you to the Dunn family (Sarah & Nick), and the Dobson family (Megan & Cameron) for their wonderful support of the school by constructing our new Pizza Oven.

Nick, Cameron and their extended families were here over the holidays working away to construct the pizza oven. Our garden group have also been working away maintaining the garden and growing some fresh healthy produce, so it sounds like everything is coming to together for a magnificent cook off!! Start getting your favourite recipes together.

Once again thanks so much to the above families, Awesome effort!

UPDATE STUDENT DETAILS
At this time of year it is not uncommon for parents to have changed their mobile or even an address, so please update the school office if that is the case for you. 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.

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.

PARENT TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS
Parents are reminded that in the next few weeks, Parent Information sessions will be conducted. (March 1st). Please keep this date free so that you can attend. Details of the exact times will be sent home to all families next week.

NEWSLETTER DATES
Our first official newsletter is February 4th and thereafter the following dates:

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Paul Volkering
Principal
School Buildings
I’m sure most people have noticed the new 5 mod classrooms have arrived on site. Unfortunately, there’s not been much work taken place since they arrived on January 21st. I said to the company responsible, that had they left the work to us, we’d have the children in by now.

Interestingly there was an article in the Herald Sun on Tuesday of this week highlighting the plight of Albert Park Primary School’s facilities and available play space. I thought to myself when reading the article, that it was so similar to our situation.

Additionally it has been reported that an extra 300 classrooms may be needed in the inner west of Melbourne within a decade because of growth pressures caused by a baby boom and the popularity of the area among families. Data compiled by the Grattan Institute reveals heavy pressure on schools to absorb the predicted 180,000 rise in students across Victoria by 2026. One wonders how we will fare as we lobby for not only additional facilities, but to also improve our existing site. Parents are our main support when it comes to effective lobbying, so please make sure you take an active interest and let local politicians know that we need support.

School Council is acutely aware and has committed to leaving no stone unturned in our quest to have our facility upgraded. Watch this space!

SWIMMING TIMETABLE COMMENCING FEB 8TH
Don’t forget to pack bathers and towel on these days.

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CANTEEN/SUSHI
Each family will receive a copy of the canteen order form for 2016. Please note that there have been some price increases on some items. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday canteen orders are placed with the BP Roadhouse. On Tuesday and Thursday, Taki and Naomi (Harry, Hilary & Miki’s parents) from Sushi Field will provide sushi for students BUT please be aware that orders do need to be placed the day prior, Monday and Wednesday, which is the day before the students will receive their sushi.

SWIMMING TRIALS
Mansfield district swimming trials will be held at the Mansfield Pool on Thursday 11th February between 10.40am to 11.40am. 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
Parents/Guardians who drive their children in excess of 4.8 km to board a school bus or travel more than 4.8km without passing a bus stop when driving to school are entitled to apply for a conveyance allowance. The payment is depending on the distance travelled (subject to Government notification) and is paid quarterly.
If you believe you are entitled to this allowance please ask Lisa or Joan for a Conveyance Form.
If you already receive conveyance allowance there is no need to complete another form.

Please ensure that this form is received at the school office by Friday 26th February.

SCHOOL BANKING—TUESDAY IS SCHOOL BANK DAY
Prep students received information packs this week 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 available at the school office.

UNIFORM SHOP AND CANTEEN HELPERS
Our uniform shop and canteen have been operating by a wonderful band of volunteers. Louise Timmers has been running our uniform shop for the past few years but unfortunately is no longer able to do this for us. We are looking for a new volunteer and Louise is happy to show them the ropes. If you can assist please advise Lisa or Joan in the school office.

Our canteen requires at least six volunteers to run this service for the school each week. Kerryn Friday is our fantastic leader who coordinates this service and she is always looking for some extra hands. If you are able to assist with either collating orders or collecting orders from the BP Roadhouse can you please contact Kerryn on: 0438 301 075.

NEW VOLUNTEERS INFORMATION SESSION
Our Assistant Principal, Julie McInnes, will be conducting an information session for any parents or volunteers who would like assist in our classrooms. This session will be available in St. John’s on Tuesday 16th February between 2.30-3.30pm. Please note that this session is for new volunteers not existing volunteers.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
We currently have 215 families in our school and we print 125 hardcopy of the newsletter each fortnight. To help reduce some cost to our school we would like to have most families receive their newsletter electronically by either way of email or on the school app.

Please see instructions on how to download the Free mobile App to your smart phone on the next page of this newsletter.

If you are happy to receive your newsletter via email please contact the school office in person or by email: mansfield.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Changes have been made to the CSEF funding for 2016. Applications are available now to be paid in Term 1, 2016. Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their achievements.

CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per Primary School Children is $125.00.

CSEF allowance is allocated to pay for Camps and Excursions.

Our Free School App is a terrific tool that allows you to receive push notifications (messages regarding school activities, etc.), view the school calendar, report a child’s absence (without having to write a note), view the school newsletter and the canteen order price list.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB 2016/ 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. Commission raised is used to extend classroom resources throughout the school.

Students will receive this order form with instructions next week.

UNIFORM ORDERING
Orders can be placed and paid at the school office and on Tuesday they will be delivered to your child in their classroom.

Please note that hats are always available at the school office.
56T would like to welcome everyone to a new year at Mansfield Primary School.

We have 5 new students in our class. This is what they think about MPS.
I enjoy learning differently to how I used to. I like sitting with different people. – Anais
I like the good people. – Dylan
I enjoy hanging around new people. I like the style of the school, I have more friends and people are more kind. I have some really good friends. – Tyla
I enjoy the school work. – Eadie
I have enjoyed meeting the specialists. I love sport. – Sam
Junior DIRT CRITS (Junior Mountain Bike Racing)

Has started back up for term 1.
All school age children are welcome.
All you need is a bike, in good working order, and an ability to ride on dirt tracks.
We race a variety of tracks each Monday at 4:30pm (registration by 4:15pm)
at Rifle Butts Road - Mountain Bike Park.
Cost: $2 per race plus a membership to MTBA. Come and try night is welcomed.
For more information: contact katestonnill@gmail.com or 0438 098 594

Dress up on final race night 2015

REGULAR BUS TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. A child **NOT** travelling home on the bus must bring a written dated note.
2. If this arrangement alters a new form **MUST** be completed.
3. Bus Passes are only granted for emergencies only—not social reasons. Casual bus passes will not be issued.
4. Bus requests must be in writing and received by the school office before travel.

**Please note bus drivers cannot give permission.**

**My child……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….** will **NOT** be travelling

on the…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Bus Route on ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. (day of the week) 2016.**

**Signed………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**(Parent/Guardian)

**Dated………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...**
News from the MPS Food Garden

Over the holidays the top terrace vegetable gardens have been growing prolifically – zucchini’s, tomatoes, eggplant, corn, rhubarb, sunflowers, basil and other herbs. It’s looking fantastic! Be sure to take a look - front of school between prep classrooms & the pool.

In addition our pizza oven is nearly finished thanks to the hard work of a few parent volunteers and some MPS students (near the canteen). We’re hoping to have our first pizza event at school in March. With all the beautiful produce from the school gardens we have begun cooking up a large batch of delicious fresh pizza sauce that we will freeze in preparation for the event.

The corn is now ready to be picked and we felt that it would be a great way to welcome our new prep students if we cooked it up for a special prep morning tea next week.

We have great plans this year to transform the bottom terrace gardens (near 1/2 classrooms) into gardens full of perennial herbs, bee-friendly & sensory plants. Top terrace gardens will be reserved for annual vegetables and herbs. We will also continue work on the boundary fruit trees and our compost heaps.

We also plan to do some more cooking days at school & sell some of our produce at our local Farmers market after the positive response we received last year.

We are looking forward to working closely with Mrs Robinson, Mrs Gardiner & our new Environmental School Leader and ultimately with all students on the planning, maintenance, growing, selling & cooking of food at school this year.

Thanks to all those who continue to volunteer their time to the various activities of the Food Garden Group.
It's 2016 and we have moved

NEW year NEW start for us!

Friday 12th Feb
5pm-9pm
7 Erril St
(Old Cubby House)

Live Music,
Pool Comp,
FREE Food & Drinks!
Ages 12-25 and Families welcome

For more info contact Jodie on 5775 8589

Find Us On Facebook

Cafe Connect

Free wireless access!
TV & DVD room!
Pool table!
Computer games!
Xbox!
and MUCH more.
Come and see what you think of our new place!!!

Drug, Smoke, Alcohol FREE
Fully Supervised!

Build Better Brains
Learn Piano

All ages welcome

Special Offer
5 lessons for $108

call contact Nicola ....
phone 0411 267 178
email n_haselgrove@hotmail.com

Pigeon Found on Sunday after the storm, if you have lost a pigeon or know of someone who may have lost their bird please phone 5779 1928.
He is very friendly and needs a home.

Mansfield Family & Children's Centre

Family Counselling & Parent Support

Coming soon - our Parent Education Survey.

One lucky participant will win a $250.00 supermarket voucher just by completing the survey.

Watch your newsletter for details in the coming weeks.

All parents of children 17 years or younger are eligible to participate.

10 Davies Street, Mansfield

Phone 5775 8601