IMPORTANT DATES:
- 8th February: S2S Mirimbah Prep & Yr 4
- 12th February: Active After School commences
- 13th February: Prep free day
- 14th February: Swimming trials 1.30pm
- 15th February: AEU Stop Work Action
- 18th February: S2S Mirimbah Yr 1 & 5 School Assembly
- 13th February: Prep free day
- 18th February: School Council Meeting 7pm
- 20th February: Prep free day
- 25th February: Conveyance Allowance Claims due
- 27th February: Prep free day
- 28th February: EMA applications close
- 11th March: Labour Day weekend (public holiday-pupil free)
- 18th March: School Council meeting 7pm
- 28th March: End Term 1 (note very short term 1) Early dismissal 1pm

PRINCIPALS REPORT

I'm pleased to report that all classes including our new Preps have settled down into the new school year remarkably well. It is interesting to note the work that goes into helping our new Preps begin school each year. A transition program supported by local kindergartens helps all students in Prep to commence school in a really positive way. Parents of new Preps are also becoming far more adept at preparing their children for school. Key to a successful first year of school is strong parent involvement.

Our school program this term and into the future is likely to be impacted by on-going Industrial action. A proposed “Stop Work” action is scheduled for next Thursday, February 14th and advice about that will be sent home to all families. It is regrettable that the negotiations between the government and the teacher unions have been as protracted as they have been. Let's hope wiser heads prevail and that we can get back to normal as quickly as possible.

All programs commence in full this week. I watched our Preps attend their first P.E lesson and there were lots of smiley faces and that wasn't just restricted to Mr MacMunn!

The new arrangements for lunches seem to be working really well. For those that may not be aware we have outsourced the canteen to the BP Roadhouse and Sushi Fields. Lunch orders from the BP Roadhouse are available Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from Sushi Fields, Tuesday and Thursday. Judging by the volume of orders lots of our families are enjoying the choices available.

Our two new staff members, Peter Baddeley (5RP) and Joe Muscari (4JM) have both settled into their new roles really well. Mr Baddeley is relishing the opportunity to share his knowledge and wisdom with the students and Mr Muscari is thoroughly enjoying his Year 4 class.

Our first School to Summit (S2S) program kicks off next Friday, February 8th at Mirimbah with the Preps and Year 4
Parents are asked not to attend in the morning, but are welcome to join us at lunch time.

A word of warning, the S2S program will not go ahead if it is either a Code Red fire day, or a Total Fire Ban day. DEECD guidelines prevent us from going into Bushfire prone areas on Code Red days.

Assemblies are on each alternate fortnight and as usual all parents are encouraged to attend. Our next Assembly is this Friday, February 15th.

Parents are reminded that School Council elections are conducted in February and March each year. A separate note is going home with a nomination form for you to consider. I urge all parents to read the information and consider nominating.

Throughout last year on different occasions, some students were dropped at school or arrived at school very early. Please try to ensure students are dropped at school no earlier than 8:45a.m.

This last week has seen nearly all Mansfield Primary students in correct school uniform. It is so pleasing to see that level of support from families. Keep up the good work and let’s see if we can regularly get 100% of students in correct school uniform. Don’t forget to make sure your child takes responsibility for bringing their own MPS hat every day.

Last year courtesy of Mansfield Toyota and the AFL, our school had a visit from the Good for Footy program. The Good for Footy program visits many schools across Victoria and I’m pleased to advise that our school received the award for the best visit. All schools are ranked for their preparedness and attendance, as well as their willingness to embrace the program. Once again the students and school community are to be congratulated for the way in which we take on a challenge.

Paul Volkering
Principal

PUPIL FREE DAYS—2013
1. January 29th: First day back for staff
2. April 26th: Friday after Anzac Day
3. June 7th: Friday before Queen’s birthday holiday the following Monday
4. November 4th: Monday prior to Cup Day

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES
We are looking for parents who would represent their child’s grade in 2013. Their role would involve being a contact for class communication. If you are interested please advise your grade teacher or speak to the office.

MAUZ—DRUMMING
Please be advised that due to illness Mauz will not be commencing drum lessons until Term 2. We wish Mauz well with her recovery.

SWIMMING
Mansfield district swimming trials will be held at the Mansfield Pool on Wednesday 13th February at 1:30pm. Students who have nominated from each of the local schools will swim a single lap of each for each stroke they have nominated and the fastest swimmers will progress through to the Division Carnival in Seymour. Students have nominated which strokes they wish to swim and there is a list on the Sports Window outside my office. Could all students who have nominated please check their names on the list and let me know if any of the details are incorrect? Parents are welcome to come and watch.

SCHOOL TO SUMMIT—S2S
This Friday will be the first of the School to Summit Buddy Days. The Preps and Grade 4 students will be at Mirimbah for the day. Parents are welcome to join us from 1.00pm when the students will be eating lunch and then sailing their boats. Thanks, Tom MacMunn

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE CLAIMS 2013
Parents/Guardians eligible for Conveyance Allowance in 2013 (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 2013. Application forms are available at the School Office. Please submit application forms by 25th February, 2013 for reimbursement in Term 1, 2013.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA)
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:
• be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
• be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts

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Please visit the School Office to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.
Morning Coffee Discovery Tour
This week’s topic: Shoes and Socks - What is the uniform policy?

Every Monday morning parents are welcome for a coffee 9.00—9.30 in the staff room. On some of these mornings, a staff member will offer thoughts on school rules, schooling generally, parenting tips, and in term 2 a session on how to read and understand student reports.

This week, parents raised the question: What shoes should our children be wearing to school?

The answer is: something comfortable and supportive of growing feet. Shoes must be “covered in” that is, toes must be fully covered. This is a safety matter – scissors can be dropped, there can be insects in the grass. Remember that students have PE classes and they like to run around at lunchtimes, so shoes should stay firmly on for these activities. Runners are satisfactory footwear.

Okay  
Not okay

Socks must be plain, without stripes, checks or other decorations and coloured white, black or grey. Tights are good for the colder weather, but leggings are not considered part of the school uniform.

Next Monday (February 11th) we will be covering the 3Rs of Mansfield Primary School: Respect for self, Respect for others, Respect for property and the environment which provide the basis for all the school rules.

All welcome and it’s okay to bring pre-school children too.

FOR SALE
Office desk for sale (corner fitted) 1.8m x 2.1m x .75cm width $ 40.00

Please phone: 0439 649 569

Would $500 assist you with education costs?

You may be eligible if you or your partner:

1. have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
2. have some household income from work (full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal)
3. have a child at school this year or starting next year, or attend accredited vocational training yourself
4. are over 18 years old

Call or SMS Karyn Howard, Saver Plus Worker on 0457 849 112 for more information.
Date: 12 February 2013
Time: Free half hour sessions between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm
Venue: Upper Murray Family Care
36 Mackay Street
WANGARATTA VIC 3677

Please phone (03) 9269 0408 for an appointment or 1800 677 402 during business hours.

BONNIE DOON YOUTH GROUP
Bonnie Doon Youth Group kicks off again this Friday 8th Feb 6-9pm at the Bonnie Doon Community Centre. We're going fishing - bring along a rod if you've got one and we're having a picnic by the lake. New comers welcome 11-16 yrs.
Call me to book in!
0438751172
Josette Bradley
Project Mentor

JUNIOR TENNIS PROGRAM
Saturday morning junior competition
Commencing Saturday 2nd February
Time 9.00—11.00am
Junior Members Free

Tennis Coaching
Wednesday an Thursday from 3.45 (45 min class) Elvins Street, Mansfield
Private and adult lessons available
Contact Danny Cahill ph: 5775 1727 or 0422 156 417

Ballkid for the Australian Open Tennis Opportunity
Mansfield Tennis Association has been asked to hold trials for the 2014 Australian Open. To register your interest please come to the Elvins Street Tennis Courts this Saturday between 9-11am.

Wangaratta City FC Soccer Club
TRAINING AND REGISTRATION FOR 2013 SOCCER SEASON

Registrations are now open on-line for players 4 years to adults
Registrations must be made on-line by following the instructions on our website www.wangarattacityfc.com.au or at www.myfootballclub.com.au.
Payments with receipt from registering will be taken at the club Fri nights from 5pm from 22 Feb or post cheque or direct debit

Juniors (Sunday Comp)
Every Friday at 5pm from 22 Feb
Boys & Girls U11 to U17

OSSF (Saturday Comp)
Muster Days 13 & 20 April from 9am - 11am for season start on 4 May
Boys & Girls 4 to 13 years

South Wangaratta Reserve
Shanley St Wangaratta

All new & past players welcome!

Enquiries to:
The Secretary
mobile: 0478 011 822
“Being in grade 6 is a great honor because you have a big responsibility taking care of the school.”

By Jaia Wincer

“Being in grade 6 is great because I get to work with everyone and get to know all the grade 6’s”

By Mikaylah Cummins

“Being in grade 6 is awesome because you get to learn a lot more and the teachers are great.”

By Caleb Annuscheit

“Being in grade 6 is a great opportunity to learn more and come up with more ideas. It will help me get ready for high school and enjoy my last year at primary school.”

By Lily Harris

“Being in grade 6 is really fun and exciting because I’m at the end of primary school and I’m learning lots and getting ready for highschool.”

By Jacqueline Lewis
BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST
FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Welcome to another school year. With term one approaching it is time to get your children ready for their return to school or attendance at a children’s service. While their asthma is just one of the many things to get ready, this checklist will hopefully make the process easier.

Throughout the year there are significant increases, or ‘spikes’, in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments\(^1\). Approximately 1 in 10 children and adolescents in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these ‘spikes’ usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school or preschool\(^1\). A significant ‘spike’ in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital, of children and adolescents experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February\(^1\). For this reason, we have compiled a quick checklist for parents and carers to go through to prepare their child for the school year.

Is your child ready for new school year?

- My child has had an annual asthma management review with their doctor and has had their Asthma Action Plan reviewed
- My child has up to date ambulance membership
- My child knows how to recognise early symptoms of asthma and knows when to seek help from staff if they experience asthma symptoms
- My child understands the importance of taking reliever medication when necessary and knows how to use their puffer and spacer, either independently or with assistance
- An updated Asthma Action Plan has been provided to my child’s school/children’s service. Even if their Asthma Action Plan has not changed from last year it is important that a letter is provided to the school/children’s service informing staff of this. It is vital that staff know what to do for your child in an asthma emergency
- A reliever puffer and spacer (and mask for children under 5 years old) has been provided to the school/children’s service for my child. With the change in infection control guidelines, spacers can no longer be shared between children and it is vital that each child has their own equipment
- I have read and understood the school/children’s services asthma policy

For more information, resources or assistance completing this checklist please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 ASTHMA (278 462) or visit www.asthma.org.au

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