IMPORTANT DATES:
- 22nd March: Athletics Carnival (all day commencing 9:15 am)
- 28th March: End Term 1 early dismissal 2:30 pm
- 15th April: Term 2 commences
- 25th April: Anzac Day—public holiday
- 26th April: Curriculum Day - pupil free
- 7th June: Curriculum Day—pupil free
- 10th June: Queen’s Birthday - public holiday

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Following on from the School Council elections, a further election took place to decide Office Bearers for 2013. I’m pleased to advise the school community that the following leadership positions have been filled on School Council:
- President: Nicola Beautyman
- Vice President: Charlotte Lindsay
- Treasurer: Abi Adams
- Secretary: Katie Bowker

My sincere thanks to each of the above people for their continued support of the school.

Last week we celebrated NATIONAL NO BULLYING DAY. To continue to help us get the message across, that any form of Bullying is not OK our school video will be available shortly at:

www.mansfieldps.vic.edu.gov.au

READING
It should come as no surprise to parents that students who are read to or read with a parent at home each night, do better at school. Research shows that children who read books for just 20 minutes a day perform better in school. Here are some great ways to get your child reading!

1. Set aside a reading time. Pick a reading time that is good for everyone. It might be before bedtime or even after homework.
2. Pick a reading place. It is important that everyone is comfortable so they can enjoy the book. Try reading in the living room, or maybe the dinner table works best.

ANNUAL REPORT
The Annual report meeting took place at School Council last Monday evening, March 18th. All schools must report to their communities at least once a year. There are three elements to Annual Report
1. Student Learning
2. Student Well-Being and Engagement
3. Student Pathways and Transitions.

Copies of the Annual Report are available from the School Office and are also on the school Website. Go to:

www.mansfieldps.vic.edu.au

Please note there will be NO lunch orders tomorrow due to the Athletic Sports.

The uniform shop will be open next Tuesday NOT Monday.

Drums will recommence with Mauz Term 2.
3. Read together. One person can read the book, or people can take turns.

4. Involve and engage listeners. Before you read, point to the book’s title, author, and illustrator. Ask listeners, “What do they think the story is going to be about?” As you read, you can ask your family members what they think will happen next. And be sure to engage listeners with exciting voices!

5. Fill your home with reading materials. Place books, magazines, newspapers, cookbooks, and more throughout the house so your child is surrounded by things to read.

6. Get caught reading yourself. When your child sees you read, he/she will be inspired to read.

7. Older siblings read to younger siblings. By reading to a younger sibling, the reader will gain confidence.

8. Start seasonal traditions. Pick a book to read every year when your child goes back to school. You can also read the same special book during a holiday.

9. Keep favourite books around. It can be comforting for a new reader to build confidence and fluency by practicing when re-reading a favourite book.

So, do your child a favour and see if you can “tick off” all of the above over the next year.

HAPPY READING!!

PARENTING IDEAS

Parenting Ideas has been missing in action this year, but I’m pleased to be able to provide another instalment in helping you to be a good parent. This week’s article talks about comparing your child with others and the potential pitfalls therein. We’re lucky as educators in that we see all children each day and are able to enjoy their individuality. Each student is unique and has their own unique capabilities. Have a read and enjoy the unique characteristics of your child and appreciate them for who they are, not for who you want them to be like!!

Paul Volkering
Principal

PHYS ED NEWS

SWIMMING RESULTS

Congratulations again to all of our swimmers who represented the school at Division and Region swimming over the last few weeks. Particular mention to the 11 years boys relay, Colby Croxford-Demasi, Tynan Mims, Ellie Herbert, Edward LeBrocque, Kody Appleton, Lachie Elliott and Cecelia Walker. I have received some great feedback on their effort and behaviour at the regional swimming carnival.

REGIONAL CRICKET TRIALS

Congratulations as well to Nick Scales, Lachie Elliott and Lachie Scales who were nominated for regional cricket trials. Nick has progressed to the next trial today so we wish him luck.

ATHLETIC SPORTS CARNIVAL

The athletics carnival is on tomorrow. Thank you very much to parents who have volunteered their time for the day. We should have enough helpers that we won’t all be too worn out tomorrow evening. The forecast is for a partly cloudy day in the mid-twenties. Students and parent helpers are asked to bring lunch, a snack, a water bottle and a broad brimmed hat. Students have been encouraged to wear their house colours: Howitt, Cobbler, Buller, Stirling. If you could send kids with a safety pin attached to their hat that would also help out.

HEADLICE

Headlice has been reported in a number of our classes. Please ensure that you regularly check your child’s hair and if you find any signs of headlice please treat them immediately. Do not allow children to attend school until their hair is treated. Follow up treatments are essential to stop the cycle of headlice so please make sure this is done. If you have any concerns please feel free to speak with Ms Comerford, Welfare Officer.

NEWSLETTER DATES 2013

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Maths Tips for Parents
How and When to help your child in Maths

Praise children’s efforts
Encourage children’s efforts as they try to count, complete jigsaws, measure (during cooking), handle change with money, count the change in your purse, Give them support as they ‘have a go’.

Encourage discoveries
Help children to make discoveries for themselves and talk about them eg. During dice games as they discover that 2 6s make 12; or as they find that small things can be heavy and large things can be light.

Help children find their own answers to questions
If a child asks ‘How far is it to Melbourne?’, you can do them a real favour by helping them find the information from a map or atlas/google maps. This is similar to suggesting they use a dictionary to find the meaning of a word.

Encourage discussion about how things work
How do you use bathroom scales?
What does 20 kg mean?
Am I big for my age?

Ask for ‘guesses’ or ‘estimates’ of amounts, distances,......
About how many metres is it to the garage; clothesline? Etc.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?
Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

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
The two Grade 5 grades sometimes become one grade to do activities. What we do as one grade is reading, maths and Behind the News.

Fletcher
We move seats so we can get to know all the people in our class. Bonnie
When we get our new seats we have to be happy who we sit next to because we don’t want to hurt other people’s feelings. Hollie
In 5PM we are doing something called CCC. It stands for care, concern and celebration. It is like ‘Show and Tell’ Grade 5 style. We do it to say what we have done on the holidays and the weekend. Geordie

In CCC I gave the toy to someone in the class. Some children can talk about the weekend. Chantelle
In CCC we have a bear, a bell and also a watch. We get 30 seconds to share. The bear is to hold onto while you are talking. The watch is to time with and don’t forget the bell. It is to ring when your time is up. Colby
Every Monday after CCC we do a Team Challenge. A team is made up of four or five students. We do the Team Challenges so we can get to know other people and to practice our manners. So far the Team Challenges have been; newspaper challenge, word challenge, modern day challenge. I have had so much fun doing the challenges. Ebony
Team Challenge teaches us manners, responsibility and to work in a team. It is VERY fun. Geordie
The first challenge we did was a newspaper challenge where we had to wrap up someone in newspaper. Ruby
Sometimes the challenge is a skit or trying to memorise as many words as possible and writing them down. In all the activities you have to work as a team and try your best! Cecelia
In 5PM we use the RRR’s. Respect for self means drink lots of water and stay healthy. Respect for others means be kind and get along with others. Lastly, respect for the environment means don’t litter and clean up. Bonnie
Job’s Wheel is when each week we change jobs. Job’s Wheel is so everyone gets a go at everything. Levi
Every day in the 15 minutes after recess we sit at our seats and create our own reading bubble. We either read our own book or Mrs.MacMunn reads to the class. It helps us tune into our book or Mrs.MacMunn’s voice. Cecelia
5PM have been focussing on prior knowledge, making connections and range, median, mode and mean. We have also been focussing on democracy, parliament and government. We share our learning time with 5RP and so far it has been going well. Regan
BTN stands for Behind the News and we watch it every Wednesday. We do a brief summary of the text thinking about who, what, where, when and why. An article I did was about cheating in sport. Oliver
In Art 5PM are learning how to create patterns. Michaela
In Music we have been trying new challenges. We have been learning new songs. I have been playing the Marimba. 5PM goes to Music on Tuesdays. Opal
Circle Time is where we (Grade 4, 5 & 6) go and get our little Buddies from their classes. My Buddy is Coralie and the classroom we go to is the music room. We do some fun activities. Some of them are: making things, singing and running around. Ebony
In Circle Time we play get to know you games, make recipes for respect and take our Buddies out on Buddy Days. My Buddy is Charlie Hall. He has another Buddy called Ashden. Sam
Sarah and I are new students to MPS. Sarah is from Foster and I am from Kilmore. Sarah is in my class 5PM. My teacher’s name is Mrs.MacMunn. I am good friends with Sarah. She is nice and happy. We really like Mansfield Primary School. I don’t seem new anymore. Bridgette
For the last two weeks I have been overseas in a place called Mauritius. I went there with my mum. We went there to see family. Kristina
Notable Australian Biographies

The grade 5’s and 6’s have been working on biographies about famous Australians. A biography is a summery of a person’s life. Here are some examples of what has been written so far.

Paul Jennings is Australia’s most popular children’s book author. He has sold over 2.3 million books in Australia alone.  
Mikaylah Cummins

Nancy Wake was one of the bravest women to fight in World War two. She was a spy and had a special spy name from the French.  
Jacqueline Lewis

Cathy Freeman was one of the fastest female runners on Earth! She is best known for being the first aboriginal runner to run for Australia.  
Edward Le Brocque

Paul Kelly wrote lots of great music which changed the lives of Australians and other people around the world.  
Darcy Bowker

Jim Stynes was a great AFL player. He was a brave and amazing man.  
Nick Scales

Compiled by Grade 6- Media Team  Luke Nash and Darcy Bowker

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Looking for some fun these holidays and want to try something different?
Check out our School Holiday Program! This is run by our dedicated Program Leader who is all set to make these holidays enjoyable. So if your children are looking to do something a little different, or you have to work, check out the program and book in for some FUN!

Tuesday 2nd April – Building Birdhouses
Wednesday 3rd April – Going to Visit the Mansfield Fire Station
Thursday 4th April – Get tangled in a potato sack at our Easter picnic carnival!
Friday 5th April – Relax and splash by the Delatite River
Monday 8th April – Lights camera action it’s show time!
Tuesday 9th April – Continuing mastering our Birdhouses
Wednesday 10th April – Explore and discover by the Delatite River
Thursday 11th April - Treasure Hunting in the Native Corridor
Friday 12th April – Develop creative skills by making crafts

Call The Farmhouse to book – 5779 1842 or email info@thefarmhouse.net.au.
Sessions open 7am to 6pm

AUSKICK REGISTRATIONS

**The AFL has now made all Auskick registrations and payments online now. You will need to register your child (or re-register if has previously participated in Auskick) by going to the auskick website : www.aflauskick.com.au and click on the registrations area. Once you have completed or updated your childs details you then need to make the payment online as instructed**
Auskick will be starting on Friday 19th April from 4pm at the main footy oval. (1st Friday back after school holidays) and will run for 10 weeks. The kids will receive their bags in the first couple of weeks once they have registered.
Any questions please give Billy 041 7331979 or Cath 0448 535235 a call.
Look forward to seeing all the old and new Auskickers!

School Holiday activities at Mansfield Library. Ph 5775 2176.

Friday 5th April 2-3pm  Author visit! Cartoonist, writer and Youtube star, Adam Wallace will show you how to draw a UFO dog and tell you what’s better out than in! Bookings essential.

Thursday 4th April  10.30am  Preschool storytime in the park. The theme is monsters. Stories craft and fun. 10.30 at the playground on Hightet Street. No booking needed.

Tuesday 9th April  2.30pm  Make an amazing feathered rainbird and listen to the story. Bookings essential.
Stand Together 2013
Bullying. No Way!

We're taking a stand

I care

We can help

I can help

We are taking a stand

We care

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence
15 March 2013
www.bullyingnoway.gov.au
The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child’s behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend’s children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it’s hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child’s progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children’s progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends’ kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child’s improvement and effort and use your child’s results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. “Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago” is a better measure of progress than “Your spelling is the best in the class!”

Gender matters

It’s no secret that boys’ and girls’ brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can’t hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour’s child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It’s better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child’s performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children’s performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn’t have too much personal stake in your children’s success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim “You are not your child” is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as “unconditional love”.

parentingideas.com.au parentingideas.co.uk parentingideas.co.nz

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## School Order Form for School Uniform (All prices include GST)

### Student Name: ____________________________  Class: ________________  Amount $ ____________

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<th>Colour</th>
<th>Size 6</th>
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Uniform shop will be open on Monday’s between 8.45 – 9.45am. Orders can also be placed at the school office and will be delivered to your child’s classroom.