IMPORTANT DATES:

February 13th - March 7th
- Year 3-6 Swimming Program

February 16th
- District Swim Trials
- New families get together 6pm-8pm

February 17th
- Parent helpers/ Volunteer information session 2:30pm-3:30pm in the library
- School Assembly 3pm

February 24th
- Book Club Issue 1 due

February 28th
- Division Swimming at Seymour

March 1st
- Preps start on Wednesdays

March 3rd
- School Assembly 3pm

March 8th
- Regional Swimming Shepparton

March 10th
- Whole school Buddy Day

March 13th
- Labour Day weekend (public holiday - No students at school)

March 17th
- School Assembly 3pm

March 21st
- Harmony Day

March 27th
- Grade 6 Leadership Day

March 31st
- Last day of term.
  - Students dismissed at 2:30pm.
  - School Assembly 2pm

PRINCIPALS REPORT

BUSES

On a normal day we have approximately 170 children travelling on school buses. The process of making sure each and every child is on the right bus at the right time is usually quite smooth and efficient. However, the system can come crashing down when children do not turn up at the bus shed and we spend time having to find out where they are. The buses are left waiting; other schools are impacted because the buses are late and most importantly teachers become concerned about the child's welfare. In 99% of cases when this happens, it is due to the bus teachers not having received a note from the parents stating that their child is not on the bus and will be either picked up or they will be walking to a designated place.

On a table, outside of the office, is a bus box. Notes from parents stating bus changes must go in the box of a morning. These notes are checked at recess and children are marked off the bus role for that afternoon. If you are unsure of the process PLEASE check with Amanda or Megan in the office. Please note that only children allocated to a particular bus can travel. Children cannot swap buses to visit family or friends. Nor can children travel on a bus to go to a friend’s place (even if it’s a sleepover).

WALKING BETWEEN BUSES

Apollo Street is an extremely busy place to be around 3.30pm. Parents picking up children from this entrance are asked NOT to walk between buses. Please use the crossing. The
bus drivers have reported near misses to both parents and students crossing the road between buses.

SCHOOL FEES
Thank you to parents who have paid their school contributions. The contribution money allows our school to provide excellent school resources for our students. Without your contributions we would struggle to improve on much needed resources. Finding the money can be challenging for many families, so we encourage you to create a payment plan. Amanda and Megan can help you to work out a plan that best suits your financial position. Please come and see the ladies in the office or give them a ring. Confidentiality is assured.

LUNCH ORDERS
Lunch orders are available Monday to Friday. Please use the app to order your child’s lunch. Orders MUST be received by 9am as it is an automated system and shuts off. Don’t forget to push the “submit” button. Call Central Café on 5775 1073 if you are unsure of how to use the app.

Sushi is available every Tuesday and Thursday 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.

PARENT VOLUNTEER SESSION
Parent volunteers to our school are encouraged and valued. Parents help out in many ways within the classroom. Prior to becoming a volunteer, we ask that you attend the volunteer session which will be held on Friday the 17th February in the school library. Please fill out the slip on the back page and return it to your child’s class teacher, before Thursday the 16th Feb.

ARRIVAL TIME FOR CHILDREN
We have several children arriving at school at 8.00am. We are unable to supervise children until 8.30am. Parents will be called to pick their child up if they arrive at school prior to this time. We realise that this may be difficult for working parents, however the safety of your child/children is paramount. Please make other arrangements for your child/children to be looked after if you are not home or have to leave for work earlier than 8.30am.

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Our school council is an extremely important part of our school community. Our School Council is made up of 15 members. At the beginning of each year we have members who have completed their term. This year we have 5 outgoing members. A letter will be sent out on February 16th relating to School Council elections.

READING
Last year I had a meeting with the local Principals from all local schools. These meetings are held each term and it is an opportunity for us to discuss the issues facing the youth of Mansfield. The topic of reading was raised. Every Principal has noticed a decline in students reading for enjoyment. It was generally agreed that technology has impacted the time spent reading. To promote reading, we arranged a BIG Book Swap which was a huge success. On Saturday the 28th January, the Herald Sun printed a very interesting article related to the World’s Most Literate Nations. Australia came in at number 16, Finland came in number 1. The article stated (Quote):

“Reading is the core of the curriculum across Finland. ...books and reading had a very important role to play in setting children up for a good education. Parents are encouraged to read to their kids. Books remain very much a part of the Finnish culture. Books are alive, very much so. Most Finnish children would receive a book for Xmas and were active users of their school libraries”

I have three questions that I would like you to think about.

1. When was the last time you read to or with your child?
2. Did your child receive a book for Xmas?
3. Is your child an active member of our local Mansfield Library?

Many of our responses will differ. As an educator I’m asking that you take time to reflect on your families reading practice? Try to find that extra 5 minutes a day to really listen to your child read or equally as valuable, read to your child. By reading to your child, you are modelling expression and intonation, phrasing, punctuation. Kids are not judgemental; you do not have to be the world’s greatest reader to read to your children (no matter what their age).

As a community we really want to lift the profile of reading and pass the message to parents and students that reading is valued and will make a difference to your child’s educational outcomes.

LIBRARY
Congratulations to Danica Meyer who is one of our outstanding young grade 6 students. Danica is our Library Captain and has already spend hours of her free time in the library sorting books and encouraging children to come and read. What a remarkable young leader! We are so fortunate to have Amanda Marshall (the past librarian at Mansfield Secondary School), volunteering her time at MPS. She has been opening the library at lunch time for students who
like to have a quiet read. We are working hard to send a clear, loud message to students: READING IS IMPORTANT.

Please help us by signing your child’s reading diary (once they arrive home). This communication from parents to teachers helps to send another message to your child, “We are all working together.”

Have a fantastic week,
Cheerio
Julie McInnes

SCHOOL CHILD SAFETY LEADER
Nicole will be leading the development of our school’s child safety culture, including being a child safety champion and providing coordination in communicating, implementing, monitoring, enhancing and reporting on strategies to embed a culture of child safety at Mansfield Primary School. This role is a result of Ministerial Order No. 870 Child Safe Standards – Managing The Risk Of Child Abuse In Schools.

Nicole is currently focusing on reviewing our policy documents and creating a Child Safe Policy and Commitment Statement. These will go through School Council at the next meeting and then be available to the school community via our website.

If you have any questions or concerns around child safety or would like to be involved in the development of our child safe culture please contact Nicole on 5775 2325.

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 has a medical condition.

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

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
Parents/Guardians who drive their children in excess of 4.8 km to board a school bus or travel more than 4.8 km 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 at the school office 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 Tuesday 28th February.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
We currently have 238 families in our school and we print 125 hardcopy of the newsletter each fortnight. To help reduce 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.

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

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB Issue 1
We offer this initiative as a way of promoting reading and fundraising for our school resources. In 2016 we were able to redeem a $600 credit that supplemented our Maths and Literacy programs.

If you wish to participate, simply complete the order form and return with payment to the Book Club lockers located outside the library. You can also order directly with Scholastic by the LOOP online system (instructions on the order form). If paying by cheque, please make payable to Mansfield Primary School. Each student must have a separate order form.

The closing date for this issue is Friday 24th February.

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.

Thank you once again to Anna Francis (mother of Henry & Emma) who has been doing a wonderful job operating our uniform shop.

VOLUNTEERS
We have been very fortunate to have two amazing volunteers, Shirley Curtis and Heidi Cotterill (mother of Toby, Andy & Annie) who have been coordinating both the Book Club and School Banking for us. Their dedication has been very much appreciated and we will miss the both of them.

We are currently seeking two volunteers to assist with the Commonwealth school banking. Banking can be processed on Tuesday or Wednesday and takes approximately one hour.

We also require a volunteer to process our Scholastic Book Club orders. This occurs approximately twice a term. Ordering is processed online and about one week later the books need to be distributed to the classes.
SPORT NEWS:
Hello all and welcome back to Mansfield Primary for 2017. We will be very busy again this year, running different sporting days and giving our students as many opportunities as possible to play and be active in a sporting environment.

State Trials:
Just a reminder that as of last year, students must register online for state trials. Remember these are elite trials for AFL, Soccer, Netball and Basketball. Students/Parents register online (School Sport Victoria Website) but only with my (PE teacher) approval. School Sport Victoria will only accept 3 per school per sport, but please keep in mind that very rarely would 3 kids from the same school make a state team. NOTE: these are not come and have a go trials, they are for students who have a very high level of skill in AFL, Soccer, Netball or Basketball only.

Swimming:
We have continued with our very successful Swim Program this year. We are always trying to make changes along the way to provide the best program for our children and to work in with our school, trying to make as little impact on classroom time as possible.
Term 1: Years 3 to 6 Swim program.
Term 2: Years 1 -2 Indoor Swim Program
Term 3: Prep Indoor Swim Program
Term 4: All intensive Swim week for Prep – 6 before School Swim Carnivals.

TERM 1 OUTLINE:
Term 1 swimming will commence Monday 13th February (Week 3). We will have 4 x 1 hour lessons during PE classes. Note: Grade 3/4S and 5/6C will be having their lesson during lunch time.

Please ensure your child brings their swimming gear, a towel and bag for wet clothes.

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<td><em>(Note: time to eat lunch will be given to children during class)</em></td>
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*PLEASE NOTE:* On Thursday 16th Feb we will be holding our District Swim Trials Day, therefore the Thursday Swim classes will not start until Thursday 23rd Feb (Week 4) and have their last lesson on Thursday 16th March (Week 7)

DISTRICT SWIM TRIAL DAY:
On Thursday 16th Feb we will be holding our District Swim Trials. This day is completely optional and only for those competitive swimmers who wish to compete further in Division/Region/State etc. Children have been asked if they would like to try out and their names will be put down. A note with times and info about the day will go home to those parents informing them that their child has chosen to swim. We would appreciate some volunteers to help run the day if possible, so I hope to see many faces down there.

If you have any concerns or questions about any of the above, then please feel free to contact me or leave your name at the office and I will get in touch with you.

Have a great year everyone!

Jen Driessen
PE/Sport and S2S Coordinator
Family Counselling & Parent Support

It's free and it's confidential

Relationship Counselling can help a couple understand how relationship difficulties might have arisen, then find ways to heal, grow and improve the relationship. When a couple connects happily and successfully, the whole family will benefit.

If you would like to discuss this or any other aspect of parenting please come and talk to one of our family counsellors at: Mansfield Family & Children's Centre 10 Davies Street, Mansfield Phone 5775 8601

Junior tennis resumed Saturday 4th February from 9am -11am.
Enquiries: Danny Cahill 0422 156 417

SOCIAL TENNIS
Wednesdays 1pm
All Year Round (inc. school holidays)
Enquiries: Rhonda Carpenter 0400 103 574

Thursdays 9:30am
Terms 1 & 4 (exc. school holidays)
Enquiries: Debbie Mims 0411 149
CSEF 2017—APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

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

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.

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<td>Lego Club</td>
<td>Nobian</td>
<td>Mrs Sketcher and Mikael</td>
<td>Lunchtime</td>
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<td>Library Team and Mrs Marshall</td>
<td>Lunchtime</td>
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<td>Choir</td>
<td>Nobian</td>
<td>Mrs Sketcher</td>
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<td>Guitar Group</td>
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<td>Arts/Enviro Team Meeting</td>
<td>Art Room</td>
<td>Mrs Gardiner</td>
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<td>Open Studio</td>
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<td>Band</td>
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<td>Mrs Sketcher</td>
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VOLUNTEER SESSION

My Child’s Name:

My Child’s Grade:

YES I will be attending the volunteer session to be held in the school library next Friday 17th February at 2:30pm.