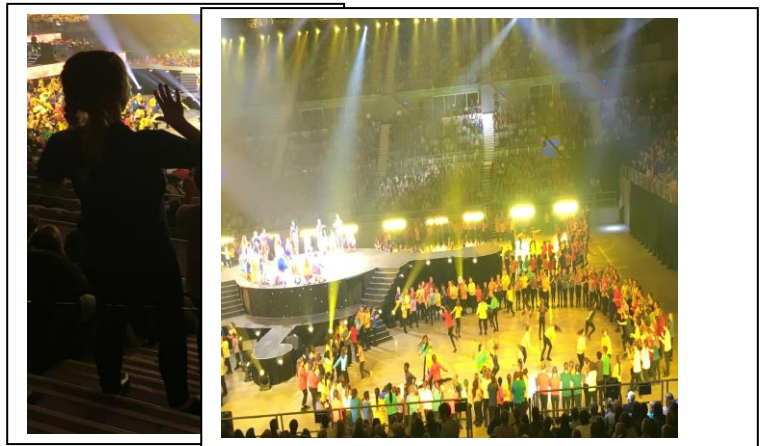


Assistant Principal Message

**MELTON WEST AT STATE SCHOOL SPECTACULAR**

On **Saturday September 10th** a group of dedicated hard working students from **Melton West Primary School** performed twice at Hisense arena (1:00pm and 6:30pm) in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular. I had the privilege of watching this performance and was extremely proud of all our students who participated enthusiastically and performed beautifully. A special thanks goes to Ms Deena Henaway, Ms Sarah Ralph and Mrs Tammy Higgins for all their hard work, time and effort. They have worked tirelessly over the past months to ensure the students were well prepared for their performance.

Victorian State Schools Spectacular includes a cast of 3000 Victorian government school students, working towards a common goal in a collaborative, competition-free environment. Its dual aim is to provide an invaluable performing arts opportunity to Victoria's government school students and to showcase the enormous talent that exists in our schools. This all comes together in a 3 hour show that celebrates a diversity of performance mediums, including choir, dance, vocal, drama, and orchestra. The Spectacular promotes student engagement and educational outcomes by boosting motivation and student attendance, building confidence and self-esteem, leadership skills, cooperation, collaboration, forging friendships and a sense of belonging. Students who participate in the Victorian State Schools Spectacular are provided with a unique opportunity to work with internationally renowned industry professionals across all disciplines, as well as the amazing experience of performing live in front of thousands of people.



*The Arts are an essential part of public education. From dance and music to theatre and the visual arts, the arts give children a unique means of expression, capturing their passions and emotions, and allowing them to explore new ideas, subject matter, and cultures. They bring us joy in every aspect of our lives.*

*Kind regards*

*Jennifer O'Connor  
Assistant Principal P-2 Learning Community*



**Message from our School Vice Captains**

Hello everyone,  
This week is the last week of Term 3. Assembly will be tomorrow Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 9:00am, School will finish at 2:10pm.  
Term 4 will start on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, in Term 4 everyone will need to wear hats to play outside. If you don't have a hat you will need to play under the pergola.  
Today Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September is footy colours day; students wore their favourite sports teams colours..  
On the weekend that passed some of our students/peers participated in the Victorian State School's Spectacular. The student's worked very hard on perfecting it. Ms Henaway, Miss Ralph and Miss Higgins helped with the performance.  
Have safe and happy holidays.  
School Vice Captains  
Brooklyn & Shehrish

## Getting it right in reading!

### Gift of the Gab

The school holidays are approaching and that means that the kids will be spending lots of time at home. Instead of having them sitting on an iPad / tablet or playing video games, why not join them in building their speaking and listening skills. Resnick and Snow said "...engaging in stimulating talk is the only way young children can expand their own language skills - learning words, putting sentences together, and practicing the "rules of talk" (pg. 3).

Here are some fun and creative ways to get kids speaking in a productive and practical way.



**Morning Talk Show** - have your child take turns interviewing yourself or a sibling / friend about things that have happened over the holidays. You can also have your child report on the weather, what they had for breakfast or other daily activities.

**Guess what's in the bag** - Place an item in a bag and get your child to feel it through the bag and decide what it is. Ask them to explain and justify their choice.

**Readers' Theatre** - Scripts offer children the security of speaking as a narrator or character. Have your child practice read the script and then when they are ready, get them to perform or record them. You can even go all out and include dress ups and prompts. The following website has many freely available scripts. <http://www.aaronshep.com/>

**Conversation Cards** - each day give your child a card and ask them to share their responses to one of the questions. <http://www.taoc.com.au/taocchildrens.html>

**Debates** - Choose a topic and have your child debate the pros or cons. Some examples include: can they have dessert or not, getting a pet, having extra time to do something.

**Marvellous Maths**

Looking for something to do over the holidays? Here are some math puzzles to solve.

**HOW MANY SQUARES?**

*I found \_\_\_\_\_ squares.*

Level 1000-0012

**TREE ADDING PUZZLE 2**

- Each number is the total of the two numbers below it.
- Find a solution for each of the trees below! There are many possibilities!
- The first tree has been completed for you.

THE GREAT MATHS WEBSITE

$$\text{Apple} + \text{Apple} + \text{Apple} = 30$$

$$\text{Apple} + \text{Banana} + \text{Banana} = 18$$

$$\text{Banana} - \text{Coconut} = 2$$

$$\text{Coconut} + \text{Apple} + \text{Banana} = ??$$



What comes next in this sequence?

J, F, M, A, M, J, J, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, O, \_\_\_\_\_, D.

## Wellbeing

I came across this article in The Huffington Post by Signe Whitson and I'd like to share the main points with you.

Signe Whitson writes: ***“there is a real need to draw a distinction between behaviour that is rude, behaviour that is mean and behaviour that is characteristic of bullying.”*** She writes, “While I always want to be careful not to minimise anyone’s experience...if kids and parents improperly classify rudeness and mean behaviour as bullying - whether to simply make conversation or to bring attention to their short-term discomfort - we all run the risk of becoming so sick and tired of hearing the word that this actual life and death issue among young people loses its urgency as quickly as it rose to prominence.”

Whitson defines the differences as:

**Rude** is inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else. In children this takes the form of social errors like burping in someone’s face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or throwing leaves in someone’s face. The critical factor? “Incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone.”

**Being mean** involves “purposely saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice).” Unlike unthinking rudeness, “mean behaviour very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone...very often, mean behaviour in kids is motivated by angry feelings and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down.” And while Whitson agrees that both rudeness and mean behaviour require correction, they are “different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention.”

**Bullying** is “intentionally aggressive behaviour, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power...kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse - even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to stop.” Whitson gives examples of multiple kinds of bullying, including physical and verbal aggression, relational aggression (like social exclusion or rumour spreading), and cyberbullying. The key aspect to all of them is the ongoing nature of the behaviour, which leaves the victims feeling powerless and fearful.

As we continue to improve our response to bullying, Whitson asks that all adults who interact with children remember that “a child’s future may depend on a non-jaded adult’s ability to discern between rudeness at the bus stop and life-altering bullying.”

To read Signe Whitson’s entire article on HuffPost, visit <http://huff.to/1XIDuIT>

Kind regards

Margaret Campbell

Primary Welfare Officer



Breakfast Club on every morning  
Monday- Thursday at 8:10am in  
the BER building.

**ALL WELCOME**





**'Seasons for Growth': Supporting students through grief, separation and loss. EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS: TERM 4, 2016.**

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Melton West Primary School, we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or other related circumstances of loss, children may benefit from learning how to manage these changes more effectively. We are therefore keen to offer a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research highlighting the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem solving skills, decision making, effective communication and support networks.

We are currently in the process of organising two programs to run in term 4 involving groups of students from Years Prep to Year 6. Groupings will be P-2 and 3-6, both commencing the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of term 4. The program will run on a weekday during school hours and will consist of 10 sessions with each session the duration of a normal school period.

If you think your child would benefit from the Seasons for Growth program, we would encourage you to talk to him or her about participating. If you would like further information, or would like to register your interest please contact either Marg Campbell, Welfare or Jeffrey Knolder Well-Being Teacher Staff and Student Support. Some parents have already expressed an interest for their children to participate. Groups are limited to 6 students per group hence only 12 students can participate so please return permission forms a.s.a.p. Letters of registration will be distributed during Week 10 of this term and must be returned by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October which is week 1 of Term 4. Letters of confirmation including dates and times of Season sessions will be sent home during end of week 1 and beginning of week 2 of Term 4. The first sessions for Prep to Yr 6, will begin in Week 2 of Term 4.

Jeffrey Knolder Well-Being Teacher.

Staff and Student Support.

**PLATYPUS FESTIVAL**  
FRIENDS OF TOOLERN CREEK  
TAMAR DRIVE  
MELTON SOUTH

FREE JUMPING CASTLE  
BIRDS OF PREY  
FREE HEARING CHECKS  
979FM  
**FREE!**  
KID'S ACTIVITIES  
SNAKEMAN  
FACE PAINTING  
ANIMAL FARM & PONY RIDES

**OCTOBER 8TH  
12-4PM**

For more information please contact:  
Lyn 9747 0525 or 0412 321 848





