

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY	Friday 2nd	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Wednesday 7th	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS</b>
	Friday 9th	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Wednesday 14th	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS</b>
	Friday 16th	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Monday 19th	<b>Teeth on Wheels</b>
	Wednesday 21st	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS</b>
	Friday 23rd	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Friday 23rd	<b>Family Fun Night (5-7pm)</b>
	Wednesday 28th	<b>NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS</b>
MARCH	Friday 2nd	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Friday 9th	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Friday 16th	<b>House Colour Spirit Day</b>
	Friday 16th	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Friday 23rd	<b>Assembly 9am All Welcome</b>
	Thursday 29th	<b>END OF TERM 1 SCHOOL FINISHES @2:10pm</b>
APRIL	Monday 16th	<b>TERM 2 BEGINS</b>

#### Key Messages from the Principal in this Newsletter:

- New Staff
- School Values
- Communication
- Whole School Focus on Reading
- Australia Childhood Trauma Group
- Master Plan
- Attendance
- Contact Details
- Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds (CSEF)
- Parent Helpers Expression of Interest
- Meet the Teacher Interviews
- Extend OSCHC
- ICT Acceptable Use Agreement
- Supervision After School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to start this first newsletter for the year with a welcome to all our students and their families, with a special mention to our 2018 Preps, whose first day was today, and all the new families who have moved to our school this year. The year has started smoothly thanks to the efforts of our amazing staff, who came in during the holidays to set up their classrooms and prepare for the students arrival.

**New Staff:** I would also like to welcome the following staff members who have joined the Melton West Primary School community this year: Ms Sarah Nolan in the Prep Department; Ms Rhiannon Usher and Ms Jacinta Lamanna to the 1/2 team; Ms Demie Merkel who is supporting a range of classes across the school; and Ms Maha Asif and Ms Rebecca Galea who have joined our Education Support team. I would also like to welcome back to Melton West PS Mrs Klaudia Jellis from family leave and Mr Neil Armstrong from 2 years working overseas.

**School Values:** I thought this first newsletter would be a perfect opportunity to remind our community of our **School Values** and how they are reflected in the behavioural expectations of all. The following table outlines our values of **Communication, Respect, Teamwork** and **Trust** and includes a definition of what each value means and how we all, staff, parents and students, should demonstrate it:




MWPS Values	What does it mean?	We demonstrate this through:
<b>Communication</b>	At MWPS we communicate openly and honestly in different ways ensuring our message is understood.	Listening, being interested and having an open mind. Our positive body language and giving eye contact to others.
<b>Respect</b>	At MWPS we care for each other and our school by accepting and valuing each other's differences.	Listening to others when they are speaking Taking care of our property as well as others' Our positive body language Including people in all that we do.
<b>Trust</b>	At MWPS we believe in, and rely on, each other for support and honesty.	Doing what we say we will do Helping each other Doing our best Sharing our thoughts with each other.
<b>Teamwork</b>	At MWPS we work together and help each other achieve our goals.	Valuing each other's opinions Actively listening to each other's ideas Being adaptable and creative when solving problems.

This year we are focussing heavily on the value of **Respect**. We will talk to the children about respecting self, others and the environment. Children will participate in weekly lessons and I plan to talk about it at every assembly, and include it in every newsletter. Please talk to your children about how you show respect around the home and the importance of respect in our daily interactions with others.

**Communication** is key to developing successful relationships and we are very keen to ensure we keep the lines of communication open at all times. If you have a question or concern that you'd like to talk to your child's teacher about, it is best to make an appointment with them. Staff meeting nights are Tuesday and Wednesday so all staff have a commitment on these nights. Please also be aware that from 8.50 am in the morning staff need to be attentive to the children as they enter the room, so that is not a good time. Making an appointment ensures everyone is tuned into the issue at hand and can give it their full attention.

It is the mission of Melton West PS to work collaboratively to ensure high levels of learning for all.

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words	282,000 words	8,000 words
		
90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

**Whole School Focus on Reading:** The first 2 days of the school year were Curriculum days. The staff worked on further developing their knowledge of the teaching of reading, which will be major focus for the year. The session included information about the latest research on teaching reading and the importance of a classroom library in hooking kids onto reading – the most important factor in whether they will be excellent readers. An interesting fact was presented about the amount of time children read outside of school and I have included a visual representation that outlines the more children read at home, the more exposure they get to new words, which helps them with their overall learning – having an extensive vocabulary.

We spoke about having books that students are interested in as take home books and will purchase high quality literature for them to take home. They may still have some more 'basic' books that can read, especially as they are in the early stages of reading, but the research says that children who are reading books of interest will get hooked quicker and will persevere even if the books are challenging.

**Australia Childhood Trauma Group:** This year we have formed a partnership with the ACT group, who will work with teachers, students and families so that all children are ready to learn.

They will be on-site 2 half days a week and will have sessions available for parent groups and individual counselling as required.

**Master Plan:** A major project that we are hoping will come to fruition is the implementation of our Master Plan. Last year we were disappointed that we weren't one of the schools who were provided with funds to begin a building project, however we were still able to proceed to Tender Documentation Stage to upgrade our school, including the construction of a gymnasium. We have completed the Tender Documentation Stage and now need to wait until the May Budget to see if we have been allocated funds to start Stage 1. I will keep you informed of where we are up to.

**Attendance:** As we are aware, children need to be at school all day every day for them to reach their full potential. We are having a major focus on attendance this year with a specific focus on late arrivals and early leavers. There are often important messages relayed in the classroom at the start and end of the day and it can be very unsettling for students to miss these. It can also be very hard for children to enter a classroom when all children are settled and working, worried that they will become the centre of attention as children watch them enter. Please ensure children are here before 8.50 and make appointments for children to attend after 3.05 wherever possible.

**Contact Details:** After the unfortunate event that happened in Melbourne late last year where a child was left in a car through out a hot day, when his mother thought he was at school and the school thought he was absent, the government has requested that we contact parents, in timely manner before 10 am on the day their child is absent without an explanation. The most efficient way to do this is to send out SMS messages to all families of students who are absent without a reason. Please ensure your contact details are kept up-to-date at all times by contacting the office in person, by phone or through a note at the office. Informing the school of your child's absence is your legal responsibility and can be done through our Skool Bag Ap, a phone call or a note to your child's teacher.

**Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds (CSEF):** Students of families, who have an eligible Health Care Card, can apply for a grant from the Government of \$125. Please bring your current Health Care Card to the office and complete the form.

**Parent Helpers Expression of Interest:** We value the role parents have played in their child's life, as their first teacher. We would like to encourage parents to continue to be an active member of their child's educational journey. There are many ways you can be involved in the school and we have created a form for parents to indicate how they may like to assist. We have tried to provide an indication of the time commitment involved to help you gauge whether it is something you can commit to. We look forward to meeting many new parents and encourage all parents to be involved, if they can spare an hour or so.

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**Meet the Teacher Interviews:** On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we invite all parents and carers to a "Meet the Teacher" Interview. This is an opportunity for you to talk to the teachers about your child so that they can best meet the needs of your child. Please take the opportunity to attend, even if it's just to introduce yourself.

**Extend OSHC:** We have an After School Care Program that families are encouraged to use if they need care after school. Yard duty finishes at 3.15 each day, so children should be cleared from the playground by then, unless they are with an adult.

**ICT Acceptable Use Agreement:** This week each child will bring home the Acceptable Use Agreement for ICT. Students need to bring back a signed permission form before they will be able to access computers and iPads in the school. The document outlines the expectations of behaviour when using the internet. Please go through this with your child as you sign it. Please return as soon as possible so that we can start using ICT in classrooms, as they are intended.

**Supervision After School:** As you may be aware, there is a park on the corner of Coburns Road and West Melton Drive, where a number of students wait for their parents afterschool. Please be aware that the school is not able to provide teacher supervision in this area. I therefore suggest that you consider an alternative location at which your child waits to be picked up. Can I also remind you that we have an After School care facility run by Extend that is safe and well supervised and children can attend at a minimal cost. Please contact the school if you would like further information about Extend. Enrolment Packs are available at the office.

**M**oving forward **W**ith the **P**assion to **S**ucceed

Michelle Costa  
Principal

#### SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S REPORT



Welcome back to MWPS. My name is Alana and I am your School Captain for 2018. I would like to get to know each and every one of you but first a little bit about myself.

Some of my favourite things are: animals, cooking, dancing, singing, meeting new people and making new friends. I look forward to meeting you all and finding out what your favourite things are.

I will be a good role model for you and our school and a great School Captain.

If you see me around, please say hello.

Alana



Welcome to Melton West Primary School. At Melton West we are FAIR. We treat everyone with RESPECT and welcome anyone who is new. You will feel SAFE.

At Melton West we have clubs so you can join in and make new friends. We are a big family so we care for each other.











We have amazing teachers that are fully educated and skilled to a high level. Kids are getting smarter and can have more challenges at high school.

As School Captain I will promise to guide this school into a better place. I will pay my respect to all teachers to make this school extraordinary.

Sui

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## Recess and Lunchtime Activities Term 1 2018

DAY	RECESS		LUNCH		
MONDAY	Library Miss Burns 	Basketball 3-6 Asphalt Mrs Slopak 	Library Mrs Fraser 	Art Art Room Miss White 	Drumbeat Room Miss Moore 
TUESDAY	Library Miss Keyes 	Movie Room 14 Miss Burns 	Library Miss White 	Colouring Room 23 Miss Dearing 	Kilometre Club Oval Miss Henaway 
WEDNESDAY	Library Mrs Stamoulis 	Dance Room 12 Miss Ralph 	Library Ms Nolan 	Technology Science Room Miss Butcher 	Soccer Oval Mr Bird 
THURSDAY	Library Mrs Cobbledick 	Basketball P-2 Asphalt Ms Usher 	Library Miss Zuniga 	Music Room 8 Mrs Mega 	Gymnastics P-2 GP Room Miss Henaway 
FRIDAY	Library Mrs Cobbledick 	Technology Science Room Mr Bird 	Library Mrs Thunell 	Minecraft Club 3-6 Room Mr Spudvilas-Powell 	

FREE EVENT

# WALK WITH HER

PRESENTED BY  
**WOMEN MAKING  
IT HAPPEN**

**SUNDAY, 4 MARCH 2018**  
10AM REGISTRATION, WALK STARTS AT 11AM  
HANNAH WATTS PARK, HIGH STREET, MELTON

## LET'S WALK TOGETHER TO CREATE A SAFER, MORE RESPECTFUL AND EQUAL COMMUNITY

1 in 3 women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15. Help change the story and show your support for a safer, more respectful and equal community with the Walk With Her event. Nominate your number of laps for the walk around Hannah Watts Park.


Led by the Women Making it Happen, supported by Djerriwarrh Health Service (DjHS). DjHS is committed to being a workforce and community leader in the prevention of violence against women. We believe it is everyone's role to challenge attitudes, beliefs and cultures that support violence.


### REGISTRATIONS:

<https://healthpromotion.eventsmart.com> OR on the day from 10am.

For support and information regarding family violence phone 1800 737 732

For more information contact Bernadette:  
[bernadette@djhs.org.au](mailto:bernadette@djhs.org.au) | 8746 1508

 [healthpromotionatdjhs](https://www.facebook.com/healthpromotionatdjhs)

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