

Newsletter Number 19

Term 4 Week 8 2020

From the Principal's Desk

Together we learn, lead and achieve.

Dear Monty South Community,

I hope you had a chance to enjoy some extra freedoms from our restrictions. I am sure many of you are making the most of being able to reconnect with family and friends.

Speaking of the easing of restrictions there have been some new Department directions, which were sent on Thursday evening. 'Last Steps' and 'Covid Normal' are used in the document to refer to the fact Victoria is in the Last Step on the roadmap to reopening.

### **What does it mean for MSPS?**

Changes include:

- Work experience can commence except for those in high-risk settings
- Department support staff such as psychologists, speech therapists, and regional staff can now resume visits to schools.
- Unwell students with persistent Covid symptoms should still be tested.
- Younger students in Prep to 2 who have had a negative coronavirus (Covid-19) test, that was taken after they developed their symptoms, will need to liaise with the treating GP about whether they should return or not to school.
- Drinking fountains and taps are to be reopened for normal use.
- Face masks are required indoors but not outdoors unless the 1.5 meters physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- As avoiding the mixing amongst year levels is no longer required, staggered finish times are will cease. So commencing **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November onwards**, dismissal time will revert to 3:30 pm.
- The congregation of adults on the school grounds is still not permitted, so we ask that you limit you stay at dismissal time to a minimum.
- Limitations on who can visit school premises no longer apply however school activities must comply with gathering limits for community facilities (group limit of 20 people indoors and 50 outdoors)
- Kinder to school transition activities are permitted in schools including parents, children and educators. Group sizes should not exceed gathering limits (20 people indoors and 50 outdoors).
- Year 7 transitions can resume but again group sizes should not exceed gathering limits (20 people indoors and 50 outdoors). And Year 7 Orientation Day can go ahead but in an adapted form.
- Daily cleaning of play equipment is no longer required.

- Face to face assemblies, graduations and other school gatherings can occur at full capacity if they are exclusively attended by students and staff only.
- Graduation ceremonies, assemblies and other school gatherings on school sites involving external guests are subject to a gathering limit including students, staff and visitors of 150 indoors or 300 outdoors with a density quotient of one per 4m<sup>2</sup> applicable to staff and visitors/parents.
- Interschool sport can now resume.

These changes are very much welcomed and make for some celebration after a challenging year.

## **Staffing**

Last week we complete the task of appointing our new Assistant Principal. The successful applicant is Naomi Ivers, who is currently an Assistant Principals at Eltham East P.S. We look forward to welcoming Naomi into our school community in 2021.

During this week we have been conducting interviews for general classroom positions. As Step Up is to commence the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> December, we are working fast to appoint teachers.

## **Review**

Our school review was completed on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November. A review is always a great opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved over the life of our Strategic Plan and to set the future direction for the school. I would like to thank the panel members Brian Collins (Reviewer), Clare Read (SEIL), our challenge partners – Catherine Gunn and Angela Richmond (Principal at Fitzroy Primary), Marcus Walsh (School Council President), Adam Bird (School Council member), Merriel Hayes and Monique Rankin for their participation in the review.

I would also like to thank the staff, students and school council members who provided feedback to the panel.

## **Parent Payments**

Parent payment notices for 2021 will be sent out next week outlining essential items, planned excursions and incursions and voluntary contributions. This year School Council has approved the sending out of a yearly planner, at the beginning of the year, so that parents can see what is coming up and set up their budget accordingly.

School councils can only request payments from parents under 3 categories:

### ***1. Essential Student Learning Items***

Essential Student Learning Items are items and activities which the school deems as essential for student learning, without which, students would be unable to access the school's delivery of the standard curriculum.

### ***2. Optional Items***

Optional Items are items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are offered in addition to the standard curriculum. Students access these on a user pays basis.

Optional Items include non-curriculum-based school events, optional excursions and camps, optional sporting or music programs and materials that don't relate to the standard curriculum such as school magazines.

### **3. Voluntary Contributions**

School councils can invite parents to make a voluntary contribution to support the school. Voluntary Contributions can be for general or clearly explained specific purposes that relate to the school council's functions and objectives. Where a Voluntary Contribution is requested for a specific purpose, the funds may only be used for that purpose.

For us at MSPS, we have a Library Fund and a Building Fund that are tax deductible. However, we are limited in how we use the Building Fund.

The original intention of the fund which was set up way back in 2010 was to build a new hall. Then the BER and Kevin Rudd happened and now we have a full size gym which we can access additional funds by hiring out to Eltham Wildcats.

So with our old building we set our sights on a new toilet block. Then more lobbying and with Vicki Ward's support we now have a brand new building and new toilets.

We had hoped to be able to use the fund for playground equipment but this is not allowed under the Australian Taxation Office guidelines.

Thus, we plan to use the funding we currently have to build a lock up bike shed which is going to be placed next to the French portable at the end of the staff car park. Plans have been drawn up and work will start on this next year.

Additionally, we will also be purchasing 12 security cameras to be placed around the school and we are looking to replace the broken and rusted covered walkways outside some of the portables. Further plans include the building of a small toilet block down near the Year 4 and 5 portables. The Student Action Leaders have been lobbying for toilets down that end as they say it is too far to come all the way to the new building.

### **MSPS Achievers**

One of the rewarding parts of being a principal is when you get to hear about the successes of past students. This week we were informed that Adam Crick who was a MSPS School Captain in 2015 has been selected as the School Captain of Parade College. Adam was a pupil at Montmorency South from 2009 to 2015. We remember him as a great role model and we are sure that he will fulfil his 2021 captaincy role excellently.

### **Performing Arts – update Week 8, 2020**

We are cooking up many events coming up in the last two weeks of Term 4.

1. **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**:- Carols/Christmas Fun Day in which your child / children will filmed throughout the day performing a dance and short Christmas item for us to be able to enjoy the end of year festivities in our new COVID normal.

A costume notice will be sent out on Compass to inform you of the ideal items to wear – lots of colour is the key.

Lead performers have their own notice informing you of their specific needs such as base item.

*An i-movie will be created and shared as soon as possible.*

2. **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December:-** Concert Filming Day – the Lead and Ensemble Performers get to have fun filming scenes and dances from our show which has been renamed ‘Arabian Christmas’.

*An i-movie will be created and shared as soon as possible.*

## Important dates

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Year 2 Celebration Day and Year 6 Funfields
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Prep Transition and Step Up
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – Second hand uniform stall 8.30am – 9.30am (donations prior are welcomed)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Colour Fun Run – p.m.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec – Year 2 Theatre incursion ‘The Christmas Show’ (The Flying Bookworm Theatre Co)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec - Whole School Swimming Carnival
- 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> Dec – Year 4 Camp
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec -Year 6 Graduation

## Step Up to the Next Level times:-

- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Prep Transition – 9:30am-11:30am, Years 1-6 – 12:20pm – 2:10pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> Dec - Prep Transition – 9:30am-11:30am, Years 1-6 – 9:00am – 3:30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Prep Transition – 9:30am-11:30am, Years 1-6 – 9:00am-11:30am

Wednesday – lunch orders – if your child is having a lunch order can you please ensure that their **2020 room number** is clearly marked?

## Best wishes

Leanne Sheean

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Dear Montmorency South Primary School

## Standardisation of parking restriction times around schools

Following schools adopting staggered starting and finishing times, Council has conducted a review of parking restrictions around all schools in the municipality.

As part of this review we have identified some changes that need to be made to the existing school related parking restrictions.

To incorporate the staggered school starting and finishing times, Council will be standardising school related parking restrictions to occur between **8:00am – 9:30am and 2:30pm – 4pm**.

Please refer to the attached plans indicating the proposed changes. These changes are expected to occur over the coming weeks.

Please be advised that this change is not expected to have any adverse effects on parking in the area, as only the time is being adjusted to assist the school community.

It would also be appreciated if you communicate this information to your school community accordingly.

Should you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by calling Ph. 9433 7722 by 16 November.

Sincerely

**Janice Ng**

Traffic & Transport Engineer

**Banyule City Council**

T (03) 9433 7722

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Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as Traditional Custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

The photos can be viewed on the school website :

<https://montysouth.vic.edu.au/community/#notices>