

2026

Parent Information Booklet



Montmorency South Primary School

Together we Learn, Lead and Achieve

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Welcome



Welcome to Montmorency South Primary School and thank you for choosing our school to be part of your child's educational journey.

At Monty South we recognise that parents, through their interests, support, care and involvement in all aspects of school life, are a critical ingredient in the development of a successful school environment. We believe that student

learning is a collective enterprise and we have a strong commitment to developing the whole child in partnership with parents.

This booklet should help you in helping your child settle back into their new school year or settle into our school if they are new.

For anything that is not answered in here, please do not hesitate to contact us on 9439 6201 and we will have someone assist you.

We are looking forward to building a positive home/school partnership with you and your family.

Keyla L. Jeffers

Principal

Leadership Team

Keyla Jeffers	Principal
Stuart Beever	Assistant Principal (Wellbeing & Inclusion)
Tegan Caldwell	Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)
Eliza Crellin	Learning Specialist
Rachel Phillips	Learning Specialist
Nerinda Hodgson	Literacy Leader
Paula Hogan	Business Manager

Child Safe Commitment

Statement of Commitment

Montmorency South Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Montmorency South Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

There is zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns are treated very seriously. We meet our legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are concerned about a child's safety.

Montmorency South Primary School is committed to preventing child abuse by identifying risks early, removing and reducing these risks. Our school is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks. Montmorency South Primary School has specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments. This documentation is available on our school website.



Vision & Values

Together we learn, lead and Achieve

Montmorency South Primary School is a school where staff, students, and parents all enjoy the mutual respect and care essential for growth and learning. We aim to create the best possible environment to enable children to explore their potential and to cater for children's individual needs.

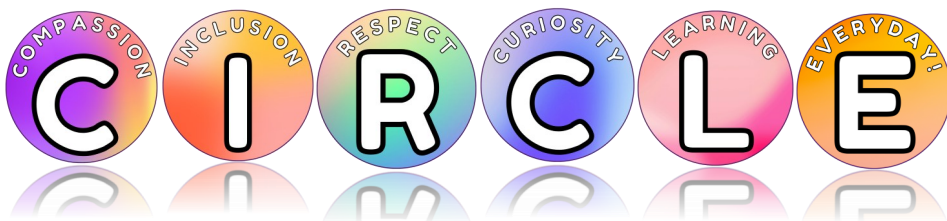
Our vision is the healthy development of every child so that each has the knowledge, skills, and resiliency to be successful in a rapidly changing world.

Our objective is to provide a positive and varied academic program for the students which includes:

- Quality educational programs.
- Focus on achieving good Literacy and Numeracy results for ALL children.
- Social, emotional learning focussing on wellbeing and inclusion.
- Promote and nurture a close relationship between home and school.
- Highly trained and motivated staff with a commitment to their own learning.
- Regular staff training and Professional Development to ensure teachers' skills are updated.
- Environmental education is focussed on within the school through our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, our Reconciliation Action Plan and the use and study of our bush block.

Our School Values are:

Compassion, Inclusion, Respect, Curiosity, Learning– Everyday.



Wellbeing and Inclusion

School Values

During the year we incorporate our school values through the delivery of our Social and Emotional Learning- Scope and Sequence. As part of developing our communities we focus strongly on developing the social and emotional learning of students through the implementation of positive wellbeing and inclusion strategies.

As an introduction every year, teaching staff work with all students in the first two weeks of Term 1, to workshop the meaning and the actions that are demonstrated when using our school values of:

- **Compassion**- is having concern and empathy for all.
- **Inclusion**- is being made part of something.
- **Respect**- is taking appropriate care with someone or something that is important.
- **Curiosity**- is having a desire to learn and understand something, driven simply for the sake of gaining knowledge.
- **Learning**- is a commitment to developing new knowledge, skills and understandings.

To cater for individual students being valued and included, we provide initiatives and programs such as:

- Berry Street Education Model Domains of: Body, Stamina, Character, Engagement all anchored by Relationship.
- Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships
- Celebrating students' achievements of our values through Student of the Week Awards at Assemblies.
- Student wellbeing captains and student voice
- Cross-age buddy system
- Wellbeing and Inclusion Assistant Principal
- The appointment of a Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader (MHWL)

Wellbeing and Inclusion is ongoing at MSPS

<i>School Timetable</i>		<i>Student Free Days</i>
8:57 am	Music followed by bell	Term 1: Tue 27 January
9:00 am	Session 1	Wed 28 January
9:50am	Session 2	Term 2: Fri 5 June
10:40am	Recess	Term 3: Thu 3 September
11:10am	Session 3	Term 4: Mon 2 November
12:00pm	Session 4	<i>3 Way Conferences</i>
12:50pm	Lunchtime	
1:50pm	Session 5	
2:40pm	Session 6	
		Term 1- Tue 24 March
		Term 3- Thu 6 August

<i>2026 Term Dates</i>	
Term 1	10 Week Term
Start Date:	Thurs 29 Jan - All students begin Finish Date: Thu 2 April at 2:30pm Preps are staggered finish 2pm Fri 30 Jan - Preps <i>*See Prep timetable below</i>
Term 2	11 Week Term
Start Date:	Monday 20 April Finish Date: Friday 26 June at 2:30pm
Term 3	9 Week Term
Start Date:	Monday 13 July Finish Date: Friday 18 Sept at 2:30pm
Term 4	11 Week Term
Start Date:	Monday 5 October Finish Date: Friday 18 Dec at 1:30pm

<i>Prep Timetable— Weeks 1 to 5</i>	
Week 1:	Thurs 29 Jan - Preps staggered start from 9:00am and finish 2.00pm Fri 29 Jan - Preps start from 9.00am to 2.00pm Tues 3 Feb - Prep BBQ from 3.30pm until 4.30pm. All families welcome.
Weeks 2 to 5:	Mon to Thurs - Preps attend full days 9am to 3.30pm. Fridays - No school / Prep individual assessments (1hr each) at school. (by appointment– will send you link).
Week 6:	Mon 2 March - Preps attend full week - Mon to Fri 9am to 3.30pm. Wed 4 March– Prep Welcome Assembly

Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA)

At Montmorency South Primary School (MSPS) we are committed to building a culture of respect and responsibility. We show this in the way we use technology and interact online. We teach our students about responsible digital behaviours, including how to recognise and respond to online dangers and threats. We support students to develop the digital skills they need to make a positive impact in the world. Of course implementation is very different from Prep to Yr 6. The AUA will be sent to you at the beginning of the year to see how we implement and embed technology into our every day teaching and learning.

Attendance

Getting to school on time is imperative.

Daily school attendance is important for all children to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and emotionally. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

We have different support services available if your child experiences difficulties attending school. Please see your child's teacher if this is the case.

Student absences must be logged as an Attendance Note (or Approval Note) on Compass by parents. Please ensure you log each absence as soon as possible.

A holiday beyond 5 days requires a Student Absence Learning Plan in order to be approved. Parents/Carers need to inform the Principal Mrs Jeffers via keyla.jeffers@education.vic.gov.au or your family intends to take an extended holiday.

Students arriving late (after 9am) or being picked up early must be signed in or out by an adult via the attendance terminal located at the school reception.

Anaphylaxis / Sharing Food

If there is an anaphylactic child in a class, a letter will be sent home to all children in that particular class. The individual classroom teacher will ask parents to refrain from sending nuts and nut products to school; however, the school does not have a 'nut free' policy.

Another precaution taken is that students are not to share their food. We understand that our younger students in particular, are not always able to identify foods they cannot eat, nor understand their condition fully. We therefore ask parents to assist us by providing foods that do not pose a risk to students with anaphylactic allergies.



Assembly

A whole school assembly is held every 2 weeks on Wednesdays from 2.45 to 3.15pm, generally in the gym. Dates are published on the school Term Planner which is sent to you via Compass at the beginning of each term. Parents are welcome to attend.

Assessment

Throughout the year, teaching staff use multiple assessments to support in making teacher judgments. In Term 1 Years 3 and 5 will be sitting NAPLAN from the 11-23 March. Although this is a nine day window we generally administer the tests over five days. Other days are used for catch up. If your child is in Year 3 or 5 and they are going to be away please communicate this to your child's teacher.

Buddy Program

Every year our Year 6 students are paired with a prep student at the beginning of each year to become their *buddy*. During the first half of the year in particular, they do activities together and the Year 6 student provide guidance acting as a role model for the younger student. This develops social skills and responsibility in the older students and helps the prep students to settle in and to have a sense of belonging.



Compass — School Management Portal

Compass is our web-based school management system. It is used at Montmorency South for communication, reports, attendance, payments, etc.



Compass can be accessed at <https://montysouth-vic.compass.education/> or download the app to ensure you are notified of important information as it becomes available.

Families will receive one username and password to access this system. If you have not received this information **by the end of this year**, please contact the office. Note that separated families will need to complete an *Additional Family Form* and parents will be provided with separate usernames/login information.

Community

It has been 54 years since Montmorency South Primary School first opened its doors to students in 1972. We believe that an enduring partnership between our staff, parents and carers is the foundation of our school community and vital to the success of our school. The school community provides strong support for the school through active involvement in management, classroom volunteering, social, and fundraising tasks.

School Council

School Council members, representing parents/carers, teachers, and members of the community, are elected or appointed for a two-year term. **This year I will be holding elections in the first five weeks of term as we have 3 parent positions available.** School Council meets monthly.

Councillors are active on working sub-committees, and may also accept an executive position as Council President, Treasurer or Secretary. Current sub-committees include Finance, Education, and Environment and Facilities.

Class Support

Montmorency South Primary School encourages parents/carers to participate in their child's learning programs by assisting teachers:

- in maths and reading classroom activities;
- in our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program for Preps.
- during some sport activities such as the school cross country and athletics day.

All volunteers will be provided with a Parent Helper induction pack, which includes Child Safe training requirements. All volunteers are **required to sign in at the reception desk and wear a lanyard. Please refer to the Volunteer Policy on the school's website.**

Parents & Friends Committee

Numerous fundraising activities are held by Montmorency South Primary School each year. Events are run by our Parents and Friends (P&F) Committee.

The P&F Committee organises events such as the Colour Fun Run, the **Monty South Fete (22 March- 2026)** Movie night, Halloween Disco, Easter and Christmas raffles, Mother's & Father's Day stalls and other social activities. The group meets once a month and any parent/carer is welcome to join or to help out on a casual basis. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, have fun, and be involved in your child's school activities. Funds raised by the P&F Committee are used to improve playground environment, facilities, equipment and more.

Find out more on the P&F Facebook page: @MSPSParentsandFriends or email: presidentpandfmsps@gmail.com or secretarymsspspf@gmail.com.

First aid & student medical plans

Students sick or injured at school are sent to Sick Bay and will be seen by our School Medical Officer or first aid attendant. Should the injury or illness be sufficient for the student to go home, we will advise parents/carers by phone to request early pick up from school. Sick bay attendances are recorded on Compass and an incident notification is automatically emailed to parents/carers.

Parents/carers are required to complete a Medication Authority Form for any medication required to be taken whilst at school. Medical Authority Forms and medications kept at school must be updated when expired.

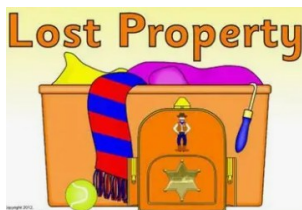
Please notify the Medical Administration & Wellbeing Officer (MAWO—Victoria) if your child has a medical condition, or is diagnosed with a medical condition during their time at Monty South. A Medical Plan is required for the management of medical conditions. Medical Plans authorised by your child's medical practitioner will expire on the "next review" date, or 12 months after the issue date. The School MAWO will send follow up notices on a quarterly basis for all expired plans and Medical Authority Forms; however, it is the responsibility of parents/carers to provide new plans upon expiry.

Library

Our school has a fantastic library. Students may borrow up to three books; however, only one goes home. Students will require a named library bag to protect the books to be taken home. Please note that any lost or damaged book will be invoiced to the parent.

Lost Property

Labelling of all school clothing and containers is essential. Please continually check that your child has not misplaced any items. Items found will be placed in the 'Lost Property' cupboard in the BER (gym building). Parents are invited to check for any lost articles in this cupboard at any time.



At the end of each term, items of school uniform that are unclaimed and in suitable condition, will be resold at a second-hand uniform sale organised by the Parents and Friends Committee.

Other lost property items will be disposed of or donated to charity.

Head lice & Infectious Diseases

Parents/carers are required to report any infectious disease diagnosis to the school by email if a student has been at school within 48hrs of becoming symptomatic.

Infectious diseases include, but are not limited to: Head lice, gastro, chicken pox, worms, Covid-19, Whooping Cough etc. Most infectious diseases carry a school exclusion period for the management of infection control.

When two or more cases of a particular condition are reported, a Compass note is sent out to all families in the child's year level so that they can take the appropriate action. Students are to stay home until symptoms are no longer present.

Specifically, **head lice** are not a threat to health and they are not spread like other infections. Therefore, as there is no guaranteed method of prevention, early detection is the best way to avoid an outbreak. The earlier we can advise the year level, the better we can prevent the spread. Please advise the school by email as soon as detected. Once the head lice has been treated they can return back to school.

In the case of **gastro** being reported, the affected student may return to school *no less than 24 hours after* the last vomit or loose bowel movement.

Families of immunocompromised students will be directly advised asap of any reported condition within a class that may effect their child's health.

Lunch Orders

Lunch orders are available from:- **My Mum and I** on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**.

Lunch orders can be made online at www.mymumandi.com.au. Orders close at 9am on the day of order.

A current price list is available at the office or on the school website. Orders can also be placed on the day with cash payment. When ordering, please include a clear first and last name and grade. Orders are sent to the canteen from each classroom by 9.10 am and lunches are delivered directly to each classroom.

Newsletters

Our school newsletter is one of many modes of communication with our school community. A newsletter is produced three times a term in Weeks 3, 6, and 9. Depending on the length of the term we may push it out by a week, if the term is longer than 10 weeks. Additionally, a Bulletin is sent out in week 1 of Term 1 and in the last week of Term 4.



Outside School Hours Care

MSPS offers a before and after school care program run by TheirCare. It is necessary to register your child before using the OSHC program at www.theircare.com.au



The program runs every school day at the following times:-

- Before school care hours are 6:45am – 8:45am, with breakfast provided.
- After school care hours are 3:30pm – 6:30pm, with a snack provided.

During the program, the children are involved in a variety of activities including art and craft, cooking, sports, games etc.

Prep children will be dropped off and collected from the Prep classrooms for the morning/afternoon sessions of OSHC (in term 1 only). From Term 2, they will be expected to make their own way to the gym where the OSHC program is run. However, if your child is not ready to go on their own, this may be negotiated with the provider.

On pupil-free days, all-day care will be provided if there is sufficient need. On the last day of term, OSHC is available from 2.30pm when the school day finishes.

Holiday care is provided on the school holidays including selected days over the Christmas break. **Sessions are from 6:45am – 6.30pm.** Breakfast and a fruit snack are included, lunch will need to be provided by parents.

Parent Information Evenings

Parent Information Evening (PIE)

Each year we hold a whole school PIE for all cohorts in the second week of Term 1.

Year level PIEs happen in the second or third week of school.

At the PIE you will meet with the whole year level team who will take you through a half hour presentation on what is done as a cohort, followed by a half hour session where you will meet with your child's teacher in their room as they take you through particular details relevant to your child's class. It is essential that you attend this session.



Parking & Traffic Safety

Two *Kiss and Drop* zones are located around the school to ensure movement of traffic at peak times. Designed for quick entry and exit, these zones minimise traffic congestion and risk to pedestrians.

During peak times, these zones operate under the same conditions as no parking zones, which means you may stop to drop off or pick up children for a maximum of 2 minutes. Drivers are required to remain in, or within 3 metres of their vehicle. Please do not park in areas that are no standing, drop-off zones or anywhere that your vehicle can obstruct the view of a child crossing. The southern carpark in the school grounds is for staff use only.

Parent Class Reps

Early in Term One, parents are invited to volunteer for the role of Class Representative of their child's class. Ideally each class will have 1-2 Class Reps.

As a Class Rep you will be asked to liaise between the class teacher and parents/carers of your child's class in order to:

- Generate a class list of student and parent /carer names and contact numbers.
- Set up a WhatsApp group for parents/carers to share information and coordinate social activities. (WhatsApp is preferred as some parents do not have Facebook)
- Call on parents to help in class or other related school activities (this may include sharing information and requests for parent help for activities organised by the P&F Committee).
- Join other Class Reps in that year level to organise an after school activity.
- Organise occasional social activities for parents within their class level.

This mode allows parents to meet others in the School Community.

However, Please note that this mode of communication is developed by the school and not private so it must remain respectful of our school community, at all times. Members who are not abiding by our School Values, will be removed.



Planning Week

During terms 2 and 3 we allocate one week of the term when staff get together in their cohorts to plan for the following term for half a day. In term 1 this is facilitated during our student free day before students commence.

We coordinate this by allocating all the specialist to your child's class on the one day for half of the day, so the timetable looks different for the week. We generally allocate planning week in Week 8 of the term. We provide a Social Story for this week for our junior students so they understand the change for the week.

Policies

We have a comprehensive list of MSPS and Department policies on our website.

Please head to montysouth.vic.edu.au to view our policies.

Some policies are generated by the Department and cover all schools e.g. student mobile phone use, others are school developed using the Department's templates and either need community consultation and School Council endorsement or only principal endorsement. Any policy that requires community consultation is sent out via a Compass notification.

Right to Disconnect

The right to disconnect legislation makes explicit that all employees have the right to refuse to monitor, read, listen to or respond to contact that occurs **outside their working hours** from their employer or a third party. When communicating with staff, please allow 2-3 days for return communication from when staff open your email during work hours. In case of an emergency we will endeavour to get back to you within 24 hours. Please refer to the school website for the Policy.

School Incursions/Excursion

To enhance our Learning and Wellbeing programs, MSPS provides various incursions/excursions throughout the year. Some are user pay and some may be part of the Parent Payment– Extra-curricular activities. Notifications and consent for all incursion/excursions will go out via Compass.



School Houses

When your child joins the Montmorency South school community they will be allocated a house team. Our school emblem is the owl and our House names are derived from various genera of owls.

Our Houses are: Strix (Red), Otus (Green), Tyto (Blue) and Ninox (Gold). Your child's House colour can be found on their Compass profile.

If there is an older sibling in your family, each child commencing at Monty South will put in the same house as their sibling. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours for whole school sport and sports carnival days.

School Uniform

Spartan is the supplier of our school uniform. They have a shop located at 97 Main Road, Lower Plenty where you can try on and purchase uniform, or collect online orders. Uniforms can also be ordered online at spartanschoolworld.com.au.

MSPS Dress Code

- MSPS Jade green polo top with school emblem (short or long sleeve).
- MSPS Sports top - this can be worn as an alternative to the polo, not just for sport and is an optional uniform item.
- MSPS summer dress - blue, white and jade check.
- MSPS girls winter tunic (with optional navy tights).
- MSPS navy hoodie or bomber jacket with school emblem.
- Navy shorts, pants (tracksuit/cotton drill etc), leggings, skirt or skort
- Sunsmart navy hat (compulsory from 1st September to 30 April) - most students wear the school branded hat, but a plain navy broad brim, bucket or legionnaires hat is acceptable.
- Shoes, boots or runners (supportive runners essential on sport or PE days).

School Accessories

- Essential for Prep - MSPS branded Reader Bag for decodable reading program (compulsory).
- Library Bag - a named, protective cloth library bag is essential by all students for taking books home (compulsory but does not have to be MSPS branded).
- School Backpack - recommended MSPS branded, but not essential.

NOTE: all preps enrolled for 2026 were given a free school bag on the Step-Up day on the 9 December 2025. If your child was away, their teacher will have the bag.

Please Note: - Thongs, open sandals and tank tops are not to be worn at school, due to the risk of injury. Students are to be dressed "sunsmart" at all times, this includes out-of-school-uniform days.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden provides an opportunity for the students in grades 3 – 6 to take an active role in growing, harvesting, preparing and sharing healthy food. For Health and Safety reasons, all students with shoulder length hair are required to have their hair tied back during food preparation.



Specialist Programs

Monty South Primary School offers the following specialist programs:

- Art
- Performing Arts
- Library
- Physical Education
- Garden
- French (but not for Prep)

Student Awards

Student of the Week - Fortnightly

Each class teacher nominates students every fortnight to receive a Student of the Week certificate. These are handed out at each assembly. The certificates reflect our school Values.

Powerful Owl Award

This award is presented once or twice a term to students who are exemplary role models and embody our school Values. This award is for *consistent excellence*.



Sunsmart

MSPS is a Sunsmart school and students must wear a sunsmart hat from the beginning of Term 1 until the end of April, and then from the beginning of September until the end of Term 4.

A Sunsmart hat provides sun protection for the face, ears and neck. It will have a brim such as a bucket hat or legionnaires hat. Non-uniform baseball caps are not Sunsmart.

Students who do not bring their hats to school will spend lunch and recess in the undercroft area. Teachers are also required to wear Sunsmart hats as they are role models for the students.

Please refer to our Student Dress Code Policy on our website.

Swimming Programs– Term 3

Students in Prep to Year 2 take part in an eight day intensive program at Eltham Leisure Centre.

Students in Years 3 to 6 take part in a two day program during the year, with a focus on Life saving skills.



Teacher/Parent Communication & Reporting

Parent/Carer contact with the school is encouraged to discuss issues of concern. Parents may contact staff by school phone, email or Compass, and are encouraged to do so during the hours of 8.30am – 4.30pm. Whilst teachers do their best to respond swiftly, our school policy requires they respond within 2-3 working days. If a meeting is required, **a mutually convenient time should be arranged.**

At the start of each year, parents are encouraged to notify the teachers first and if need be then the school if there are any special requirements for communication with their families, or if there are any specific requirements for their child's academic or wellbeing needs.

In Terms 1 and 3, 3-Way Conferences involving parent/carers, teacher and student are held. On these two days students finish at 10:30am. Written student reports are provided at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

Toilet Breaks

During class times, students are permitted to go to the toilet. The Prep area has a dedicated toilet block for Prep use and it is expected that they use this at all times.

Other year levels are to use their dedicated toilets accordingly. Year 6 have access to internal toilets in their building during class time.

Wet or Hot Weather

If the weather is considered too wet or too hot for children to play outdoors, a 'wet/hot day' timetable is declared. Children play quiet games in classrooms. Classroom teachers make activities and games available for this purpose.

Wheels in School Grounds

We highly encourage our students travelling to and from school by sustainable means of transport such as walking, cycling and scooting; however, when students arrive at school we ask that they walk their bike, scooter or skateboard within the school grounds. This is a safety precaution and will be strictly enforced during peak pedestrian times.

We have several bike hoop banks located around the school grounds for locking up bikes.



Yard Duty

Staff are timetabled to be on Yard Duty during the following times:

- 15 minutes before the commencement of school
- During recess
- During the lunch break
- 15 minutes at the end of the day



Yard Duty staff wear bright yellow fluorescent vests to make them more visible. They also have first aid bags to allow them to treat minor injuries. If a child has a more serious injury, they will be sent into the First Aid room to be attended by our MAWO or first aid attendant. The Preps and new students to the school are made aware of the Yard Duty staff and their role.

Please note students are not to be on school grounds outside of these times unsupervised. If your child is on school grounds unsupervised you will be contacted.

Boundaries

The students are able to play in areas that are clearly visible by the teachers on yard duty. The staff car park and the area near the skip bins, behind the Year 4 portables, the kitchen-garden embankment and the bush block are all off limits to students as they are not visible to yard duty staff.

The corner block in front of the school office (on corner of Grand Boulevard and Reichelt Ave) is leased by the school with the City of Banyule. It is a quiet area that students may use. This is identified as the 'Tan Bark Area'.

**Thank you for being part of our school community and
welcome or welcome back to Monty South!**



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