
We trust that your association with the school can, at all times, be extremely positive. Should there be any issue arising which you feel needs attention please do not hesitate to contact the school and either speak with your child’s teacher, therapist, section coordinator, nurse, office staff, or either Lois Mitchell or myself. This contact can, of course, be for any matter which you wish to draw to our attention, whether it is that you are concerned or alternatively you wish to highlight a positive school situation or experience.

It is with pleasure I welcome 2 new staff to our school, namely Luciana Balotta and Adrienne Inglese. Lucy is the teacher in Primary 13 and is not completely new to the school as she has previously taken on various replacement roles in 2015. Adrienne has assumed a support staff position in Primary 10 and although not having worked in a school previously has working with adults with additional needs. We wish them well during their time at Monash SDS.

It is also with pleasure that I announce the new student leaders of our school. The leaders are Ben Mazzeo, Bryn Holland, Jalen Aughterson, Sarah Fox and Shaun Dowell from Pathways 20 and Josh Stirling from Pathways 15. All are highly excited at being elected as the student leaders and will, throughout the year, not only organise certain activities for the students but also assist to highlight, to their peers, the School Expectations - Do Your Best; Help Others Succeed; Respect Your Environment.

Key Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. ‘16</td>
<td>Every Tues My Time Group Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 to Fri 26</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher interviews: School Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 29</td>
<td>Year 7 Immunisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar.’16</td>
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Term Dates 2016

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>January 28 – March 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>April 11 – June 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>July 11 – September 16</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>October 03 – December 20</td>
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Pupil Free Days 2016

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<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>Friday, 3 June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Monday, 31 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Tuesday, 20 December</td>
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Finally, many will be aware of the recent **hoax phone calls** to a number of Victorian schools. I wish to reassure you that although our school has not received such a call, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year. Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

If you have any questions please contact me.

*Helen McCoy*
Principal

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**From the Nurse...**

In accordance with the National Immunisation Program, all Year 7 students will be offered the following vaccinations:

- A single dose of Chickenpox
- A single dose of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Boostrix)
- Three doses of Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV).

Consent cards will be sent home to Year 7 students (born 2003). These will need to be completed and returned to school by the date specified. The following are the confirmed dates for the Monash council to visit our school for the above immunisations.

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday, 29 February 2016</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Thursday, 12 May 2016</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Friday, 9 September 2016</td>
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Welcome back to all our families for 2016.

Invoices for the 2016 year have been forwarded to you in the post.

If paying your account via direct deposit please ensure that the highlighted Reference Code is included so the amount can be allocated to the correct account.

Should you require a payment plan please do not hesitate to contact Deb Crawley to discuss this matter.

Please remember to label your child’s clothing appropriately so they can be identified and returned when they are mislaid.

A gentle reminder to those parents whose children go to respite care: due to limited space on the buses, please make sure your child’s bags are no larger than a carry-on size.

Thank you

Unsure what Centrelink payments are available to you? Visit www.humanservices.gov.au and select the Payment Finder.

**On June 25th, we will have a representative from Centrelink visiting as a guest speaker for our Parent Coffee Morning. Further details to follow!**
MyTime at Monash Special Developmental School in 2016

EVERY TUESDAY at 9.15 in the Library

All parents and carers are welcomed.

➢ MyTime is open to anyone caring for a child with disability, developmental delay, or chronic medical condition. Groups are open to everyone, regardless of the condition of their child. Children below school age may also attend groups with their parent or carer.

➢ MyTime groups provide a place to socialise, to discuss, to get information, and to support and be supported by other carers.

➢ Facilitators work with group members, helping them get to know each other and learn more about the services and supports in their area. Members choose what they would like to discuss in their groups, with help from the facilitator. Depending on what the group wants to do, the facilitator might guide group activities or provide resources.

➢ Facilitators are workers from local organisations. They have qualifications and experience in disability, parenting or family support and bring to the MyTime group a good understanding of local resources and support services.

➢ Play helpers keep children, including under school aged siblings, busy and active in activities so members can spend time catching up with one another.

➢ MyTime is free.

mytime.net.au
2016 NAPLAN TESTS

Dear Parent

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2016 tests will be undertaken by all Australian Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students on 10, 11 and 12 May. Students will be tested in Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation), Reading and Numeracy. The NAPLAN tests are implemented by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on behalf of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child’s performance in Literacy and Numeracy. The information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and to improve student achievement.

Students with significant intellectual disabilities can be exempted from one or all of the NAPLAN 2016 tests. You are advised to discuss with your child’s teacher whether or not your child should undertake the NAPLAN 2016 tests. In certain circumstances, adjustments are available for students with disabilities to enable them to participate in the tests. Your child’s teacher will have details of these adjustments and of their appropriateness for your child.

For further information about the NAPLAN tests, please visit the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

Principal

NDIS Community Forum

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Clare O’Neill MP, the Federal Member for Hotham, would like you to join her at this important community forum on the NDIS.

- Find out more about the NDIS rollout in our area, and what it will mean for local families.
- Share your concerns about the NDIS, to help Clare continue to advocate in Canberra for families affected by disability.

Tuesday 8 March, 2016
6:30pm - 8:00pm
Jan Lake Centre
Genoa St, Moorabbin

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP by 3 March, 2016
Email: clare.onnell.mp@aph.gov.au
Phone: 9545 6211

Clare O’Neil MP
Federal Labor Member for Hotham

For parents of children with a disability

31 JAN 2016

Free sessions in 15 locations for Vic parents!
If you live near Bainsdale, Brunswick, Bulleen, Belgrave, East Melbourne, Ferntree Gully, Forest Hill, Frankston, Glen Iris, Mildura, Mt Evelyn, North Melbourne, Ringwood East, Surrey Hills or Yea free parenting support is available near you. You can also get Stepping Stones support online.

Parents can visit www.triplep-steppingstones.net for more details about the different types of parenting support available in your area.

More sessions in different areas will be regularly added by trained practitioners, so make sure you keep an eye on the website. Alternatively you can contact our team at med-steppingstones@monash.edu and they can help link you up with a Stepping Stones program.