



# Mount Pleasant Primary School

# NEWSLETTER



Newsletter Number 3

25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## Upcoming Dates

No WEDNESDAYS for foundation students  
Before School Athletics  
Labour Day Public Holiday  
Athletics Carnival  
Netball Carnival

February and March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
February 14,21,28 and March 7<sup>th</sup>  
Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup>



## News from the Principal

Dear Families,

Whilst we have been busy “getting back to business” it is still a very busy time for schools implementing new procedures. The start of this year has seen us install air purifiers, distribute RA Tests and work with families with the new testing regimes. I would like to remind all families to please be patient with teachers and all staff during this time. We are working to support all of our families, implement the new guidelines and we are in a constant state of change. Our team does the best they can with the new information that flows through at a rapid rate.

With this in my mind, I would take this time to remind all families of our Respect for Staff policy and DET’s Statement of Values that is for all members of our learning community. At Mount Pleasant Primary School, our vision is to create a learning community that shares “a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe school environment for our students.” Our core values are ‘Respect, Responsibility and Resilience’. I see these values and our vision reflected in so many interactions at our school every day, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contribute to the positivity of our school community each and every week.

We all have a shared responsibility for ensuring that we uphold our values and vision in our day to day interactions with each other, and I am committed to ensuring that everyone in our school community is treated with respect, fairness and dignity. This is particularly important where there are concerns or sensitive matters to be raised, or where we think that particular issues should be responded to or handled differently.

Thank you to all of our families who have taken things in their stride and continue to work in partnership with us.

Our first focus is keeping the school safe, open and operational.

### COVID Updates:

The Victorian Government has today announced a 6-week extension of the COVIDSafe measures in place for schools. These were introduced at the beginning of Term 1 and will now be in effect until the remained of Term 1, subject to any changes in health advice.

In summary, there will continue to be a focus on the “3V’s” of ventilation, vaccination and vital COVIDSafe steps.

Use of RATS will continue, and distribution of these will be throughout Term 1.

### Code of Conduct:

Please ensure you discuss this with your child and return the signed Code of Conduct form. Please return this form by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of February.

### Reading Program:

Keep up the good work with home readers! Reading every night makes a HUGE difference to a child's reading progress. This week we started a new learning routine. During reading some grades have started Fluency Pairs! Fluency has a significant impact on students ability to comprehend. Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression, all of these things help us to comprehend what we are reading.

### School Uniform:

It has been pleasing to see so many of our students returning to school in full school uniform and with their hats!

Wearing school uniform is compulsory at Mount Pleasant Primary School. Wearing a uniform develops a *sense of belonging* and *promotes equality* in our learning community, assists in student safety by ensuring staff are able to identify children when on local walks and excursions, and reduces clothing costs over time. Please ensure your child wears the correct and clean school uniform each day. Navy blue items such as shorts, pants, t shirts and jumpers can all be purchased at very reasonable prices from a range of stores such as Big W/Best and Less/K-Mart. For embroidered school uniform pieces you can purchase from Crockers in Ballarat.

### Change of Contact details:

Please let the Admin Office know as soon as possible if your details such as phone number, address change.

### Wellbeing:

We continue to focus on Wellbeing, for our students, staff and wider community. This means following the correct hygiene and restrictions measures. It also means ensuring we are looking after ourselves through good sleep habits, good eating habits and getting outside for fresh air and sunshine.

### Pick Up Times and After School Care:

A reminder that school pick up time is between 3.15pm and 3.30pm. We kindly request that families observe these times. We are lucky to have on site After School Care that you can book your child/ren into if you need a later pick up time. Contact Extend directly on: 1300 366 437

We discourage families picking children up early from school unless there is a valid reason to do so such as a medical appointment. If you arrive early to pick your child up without prior communication you may need to wait until there is an available staff member to go to the classroom to collect them.

Warm regards,  
Kate Robinson  
Principal

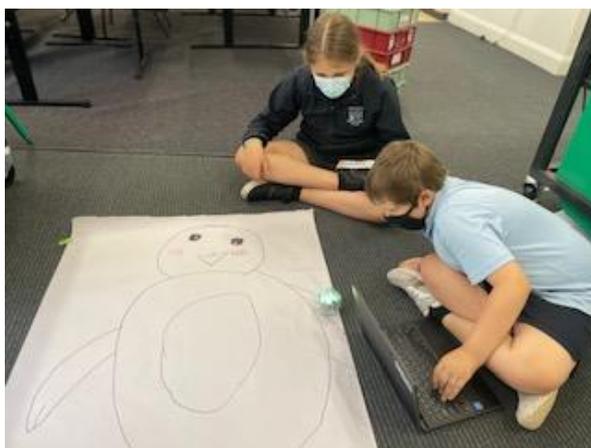
*I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.*



**ICY POLE FRIDAY \$1**

## Grade 5/6 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths)

In STEM, students are learning to think like computer scientists. This week, the grade 5/6 students worked in pairs to draw/design a robot using a range of 2-dimensional shapes. They were then challenged to drive a Sphero robot along the edge of their drawing. Students used teamwork and problem-solving skills to achieve their goals. Hope said, *"The robot was going too fast which made it hard to control so I thought about changing the speed setting to slow it down which worked"*. Other students solved the same problem by tapping the controls rather than holding them down. Odin said, *"If you hold the arrow key down the robot moves too fast. If you just tap the arrow key the robot moves slowly"*.



**REMEMBER  
ONCE A WEEK,  
TAKE A PEEK**

*Please help our school win the war against head lice by checking your child's hair each week.*



If your child is missing any belongings, please check our lost property at the office.

We urge families to **please name their school uniforms/lunch boxes** so that items brought to the office can be returned to students.

One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

### What you need to know

**1. If a child is unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms, they must stay at home**

If a child becomes unwell during the day, they must be collected from school/early childhood education and care (ECEC) as soon as possible.

**2. If a child has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) outlined below, however mild, they should get tested and they must remain at home until they receive their results:**

- fever
- chills or sweats
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- runny nose
- loss of sense of smell or taste.

In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea may also be considered symptoms.

For further advice:

- call the 24-hour coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline 1800 675 398
- call a general practitioner
- use the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) [online self-assessment tool](#).

Visit: [Where to get tested](#).

**3. A child must stay at home until they are symptom free, even if their coronavirus (COVID-19) test is negative**

If a person has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or been identified as a close contact they must isolate/quarantine until they receive clearance from DHHS.

**Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma** whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC/school. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms. They should consider getting a medical certificate from their GP to attend ECEC/school if they have persistent symptoms that may overlap with symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough or runny nose.

**Younger children (pre-school up to Grade 2) may have prolonged post viral symptoms** such as a runny nose or cough and may return to school/ECEC following a negative COVID-19 test even if they are not completely free of symptoms. They will need a medical certificate from their GP to confirm they are otherwise well or have recovered from their acute illness.

For information on the minimum periods students and children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the [DHHS school exclusion table](#).

**4. Children do NOT need a medical certificate before returning to school/ECEC**

Once symptoms have cleared, there is no requirement from the Department of Education and Training or DHHS for children/students to have a medical certificate before they return to school/ECEC.

Thank you for your support in following these steps, together we can all stay safe.



This advice has been prepared by the Department of Education and Training, Safer Care Victoria and the Department of Health and Human Services

# RESPECT FOR SCHOOL STAFF POLICY

## Mount Pleasant Primary School

### PURPOSE

To ensure that members of our community understand Mount Pleasant Primary School's expectations for appropriate interactions with school staff.

### POLICY

Staff at Mount Pleasant Primary School, including teachers, education support staff, office staff, the assistant principal/s and principal are committed to providing a supportive learning environment for all our students. Our staff take their work very seriously and feel privileged to be able to play an important role in each child's education.

All staff at Mount Pleasant have a right to a safe and supportive work environment.

Mount Pleasant Primary School expects that all parents/carers and visitors to our school behave in an appropriate and respectful manner to school staff at all times.

There will be a zero tolerance approach to any;

- aggression
- intimidation,
- threats or harassment of school staff, by any means (e.g. in person, by phone, by email, on social media etc).

These behaviours may lead to exclusion from school grounds and school activities.

The principal may report aggressive, intimidating, threatening or otherwise inappropriate conduct to Victoria Police. The Department of Education and Training may also take legal or other appropriate action against community members or parents/carers who pose a threat to the safety and wellbeing of school staff.

Mount Pleasant Primary School expects all members of our community to act consistently with our *School Values – Respect, Responsibility, Resilience*. We are committed to ensuring that staff, parents/carers and students are able to work together in an appropriate and respectful way.

### REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on 09/05/2021 and is scheduled for review in 09/05/2022

## STATEMENT OF VALUES

PROMOTING HEALTHY, SAFE AND RESPECTFUL SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Mount Pleasant Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and parents to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, ensuring inclusive, safe and orderly environments for children and young people.

This Statement of Values sets out our behavioural expectations of all members in this school community, including the principal, all school staff, parents, students and visitors. It respects the diversity of individuals in our school community and addresses the shared responsibilities of all members in building safe and respectful school communities.

Discrimination, sexual and other forms of harassment, bullying, violence, aggression and threatening behaviour are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this school.

Our Statement of Values acknowledges that parents and school staff are strongly motivated to do their best for every child. Everyone has the right to differing opinions and views and to raise concerns, as long as we do this respectfully as a community working together.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

## AS PRINCIPALS AND SCHOOL LEADERS, WE WILL:

- Work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe conduct is expected of everyone.
- Behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide inclusive, safe and orderly environments.
- Plan, implement and monitor arrangements to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students in attendance at the school is protected.
- Identify and support students who are or may be at risk.
- Do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential.
- Work with parents to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly.
- Respond appropriately when inclusive, safe or orderly behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required.
- Make known to parents the school's communication and complaints procedures.
- Ask any person who is acting in an offensive or disorderly way to leave the school grounds.

## AS TEACHERS AND ALL NON-TEACHING STAFF, WE WILL:

## AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WE WILL:

- Model positive behaviour to the school community.
- Treat other members of the school community with respect.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.
- Utilise the school's communications policy to communicate with the school.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT WILL:

- Provide support and advice to principals to equip them to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools respond to and prevent bullying and promote cyber-safety and wellbeing.
- Provide access to evidence based resources and strategies to increase student safety, wellbeing and engagement.
- Provide schools with practical and legal support as required.
- Provide parents with practical guidance and resources to resolve conflicts with the school.

## CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILING TO UPHOLD THE STATEMENT OF VALUES

## UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Behaviours that are considered inappropriate on and adjacent to school grounds or in relation to school business and that do not uphold the principles of this Statement of Values include when a person:

- is rude, aggressive or harasses others
- sends rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- is manipulative or threatening
- speaks in an aggressive tone, either in person or over the telephone
- makes sexist, racist or derogatory comments
- inappropriately uses social media as a forum to raise concerns/make complaints against the school
- is physically intimidating, e.g. standing very close.

## CONSEQUENCES

Principals are responsible for determining what constitutes reasonable and unreasonable behaviour.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this Statement of Values may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences. This may include:

- Model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession.
- Proactively engage with parents about student outcomes.
- Work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly.
- Work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs.
- Communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect.

## AS PARENTS, WE WILL:

- Model positive behaviour to our child.
- Ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction.
- Take an interest in our child's school and learning.
- Work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child.
- Communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.
- Follow the school's complaints processes if there are complaints.
- Treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

## AS STUDENTS, WE WILL:

- Model positive behaviour to other students.
- Comply with and model school values.
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner.
- Respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment.
- Actively participate in school.
- Not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.



- utilising mediation and counselling services
- alternative communication strategies being applied
- formal notice preventing entry onto school premises or attendance at school activities. Written notice will follow any verbal notice given.
- an intervention order being sought
- informing the police which may result in a charge of trespass or assault

By agreeing to meet specified standards of positive behaviour, everyone in our school community can be assured that they will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, this will help to create a school that is safe and orderly, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.