



Mount Pleasant PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A great school in the heart of Ballarat

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*We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we all live and learn, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation, where we share a place of belonging. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and thank them for taking care of this country over countless generations.
Koling wada-ngal (Let us walk together)*

**Term 1, Week 4
20th February, 2024**

From the Principal

Hello everyone

I am so pleased to have welcomed (and continue to welcome) new families to our school this year as we settle into Term 1. Our 124th student is due to start next week ... and a time for us to celebrate the highest enrolment at Mount Pleasant Primary School since 2019! If you notice a few new faces in the classrooms or playgrounds, please don't forget to say g'day and extend the warm welcome to new families joining our fabulous school.

It's that time of year again for School Councillor nominations and we do have two positions available for parents to join in—a wonderful way to be involved in the governance of our school. This will be for a two-year term. Please see me or Sam Kargaran, our School Council President, if you are interested—I have placed some information in this newsletter that I hope you will find helpful, including some FAQs about School Council.

I wanted to share with you my pride in taking our Bulldogs Read students on their first excursion this week. Their behaviour, attitude and eagerness to participate at the Ballarat Library was exemplary. I look forward to working with Mrs Brearley and our 'Club' in 2025, in developing and nurturing literacy and sporting skills as the year progresses. See more about our Bulldogs Read Program, including a few photos, in this newsletter.

A kind reminder to all families that at school drop off time, grown ups are requested to leave the classroom by 9:00am to allow our teaching and learning program to begin on time. Our teachers appreciate your support here, allowing important start-of-day routines and our structured literacy program to commence without delay.

Our first Welcome Picnic on Tuesday night was a lovely

chance for students, staff and families to meet up and enjoy some relaxing time together. There were loom bands, bubbles, sports games and zooper doopers for the kids, and some delicious home made or takeaway dinners devoured on picnic rugs with families. Many thanks to those able to come along on the night—hopefully we can build on this in the future and make it an annual event.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for snippets and updates in between newsletters, and school families, remember to always view Sentral notifications as they pop up. As always, keep safe and look after yourself, your family, friends and neighbours. Stay grateful, kind and mindful, as we say and do in school.

Miss Catherine Barnes, **Acting Principal**

Welcome Picnic

Thank you to everyone who was able to make the Welcome Picnic on Tuesday night. The weather was fine, food was great and everyone loved the activities and getting together.



Term 1 Calendar

Term 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 27th-31st January	January 27th Australia Day holiday— SCHOOL CLOSED	28th Staff commence— STUDENT FREE DAY	29th Year 1-6 students commence Term 1	30th Foundation students commence Term 1 Say It Sister Program (selected students)	31st
Week 2 3rd-7th February	February 3rd	4th	5th Foundation Free Day	6th Newsletter Say It Sister Program (selected students)	7th Assembly 9:00am
Week 3 10th-14th February	10th	11th	12th Foundation Free Day Bulldogs Read “Family Information Evening” 6:00-7:00pm (selected students)	13th Say It Sister Program (selected students)	14th Assembly 9:00am
Week 4 17th-21st February	17th Bulldogs Read “Welcome Event” 12:30 -3:00pm (selected students)	18th School Welcome Picnic, 5:00-6:30pm	19th Foundation Free Day	20th Newsletter Say It Sister Program (selected students)	21st Assembly 9:00am
Week 5 24th-28th February	24th	25th	26th Foundation Free Day School Council meeting 4:30pm	27th Say It Sister Program (selected students)	28th Assembly 9:00am
Week 6 3rd-7th March	March 3rd Foundation Students full time	4th	5th	6th Newsletter Say It Sister Program (selected students)	7th Assembly 9:00am
Week 7 10th-14th March	10th Labour Day holiday— SCHOOL CLOSED	11th	12th NAPLAN window starts for Years 3 & 5	13th Say It Sister Program (selected students)	14th Assembly 9:00am
Week 8 17th-21st March	17th Teeth on Wheels	18th Teeth on Wheels	19th Teeth on Wheels	20th Newsletter Say It Sister Program (selected students)	21st Assembly 9:00am Harmony Week celebration
Week 9 24th-28th March	24th NAPLAN window ends for Years 3 & 5	25th	26th School Council meeting 4:30pm	27th Newsletter Say It Sister Program (selected students)	28th Assembly 9:00am
Week 10 31st March-4th April	31st	April 1st	2nd	3rd Student Support Group meetings TBC	4th Assembly 9:00am Student Support Group meetings TBC Last day of Term 1, 2:15pm dismissal (Term 2 resumes on Tuesday 22nd April)

Students of the Week



Congratulations to the following students for being recognised for their achievements in our school with our Student of the Week which commenced in Week 3:

Week 3

Syd (F), Thomas S (F/1), Rydyr S (1/2), Amelie (2/3), Alexis (3/4), Sanaya (4/5) and Zenna (6).

Continue being your best!

Annual Privacy Reminder for Our School Community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#).

Miss Barnes

Mount Pleasant PS is online



SCHOOL ZONE

8 - 9³⁰ AM
2³⁰ - 4 PM
SCHOOL DAYS

The roads to and around our school have a 40km/h speed limit during drop off and pick up times (with Cobden Street 40km/h at ALL times).

For everyone's safety—students, families and staff, please abide by this speed limit when arriving and departing from school at all times.

Thank you.

Values Tokens

Showing our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience is so important in every classroom, every play space, every day. Well done to our students who were 'caught out being great' and demonstrating our values across the school.

	Week 2	Week 3
Foundation (Room 3)	Bella, Logan, Goanar	
Foundation/Year 1 (Room 1)	Jackson, Alyssa, Noah S	Damascus, Jaxon
Year 1/2 (Room 2)	Par, Thomas, Esme	Ava, Dylan, Melanie, Par
Year 2/3 (Room 9)	Charlie, Amelie, Aysa	
Year 3/4 (Room 7)	Wyatt C, Ruby, Joseph	Oliver, Archie, Autumn
Year 4/5 (Room 5)	Parker, Niamh, Ivy Sin	
Year 6 (Room 4)	Zenna, Spencer	Zaidan, Chase, Evie

Chinese

In Chinese, the students have had a wonderful start to the term and enjoyed exploring the Chinese New Year celebrations. They have explored different aspects of Chinese culture, including the traditional Chinese story of Nian and Chinese handwriting. Students have explored a variety of handcrafts. They were very interested in studying zodiac signs for 2025, which is the year of the snake. Students also learned about the facts of New Year around the world and understood how people celebrate New Year in the different countries.

We wish everyone good luck and good fortune for a happy Year of the Snake!

Ms Tian



Learning times

The times for learning in class remain the same for 2025.

9:00am	School starts; formal class learning
11:00am	First recess
11:30am	Formal class learning
12:30pm/12:50pm	Lunch eating time (Thurs/Fri depending on Specialist timetable)
1:45pm	Second recess
2:15pm	Formal class learning
3:15pm	Dismissal

If you require to collect a child early or drop off a little later due to (for example) a medical appointment, please visit the Office and sign him/her in the Sign In/Out booklet.

Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$154 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 5332 3646 and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Janine



Drop Off & Pick Up Times

Families are reminded that formal school supervision begins each day at 8:40am and concludes at 3:30pm. Before and after these times, teachers plan and prepare learning programs and meet together to discuss school matters.



Please respect this as important time for teachers in their professional practice; and ensure that you drop off your child/children between 8:40-9:00am each morning and collect them before 3:30pm.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Mount Pleasant Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4:00pm on 6/3/24. The ballot will close at 4:00pm on 20/3/24.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2025 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2027.	2
School employee	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2025 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2027.	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Miss Barnes

School council elections – Information for families

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent member category** – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected student member category, two positions.**

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

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School council elections – Information for families

... from previous.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Department of Education

Lunch Orders

Lunch Orders are every Thursday through the Grant Street Takeaway Shop. If you would like your child to have a lunch order please write on a brown paper bag the child's name and classroom, what you would like to order, price and if you require any change. Your child will then place this into the lunch order box first thing Thursday morning to be collected. Price List is attached to the newsletter.

Kylie

Administration News

PARENT PAYMENTS AND SCHOOL CHARGES 2025

Mount Pleasant Primary School is committed to providing the best possible opportunities for all our students. In order to provide a high standard of service, some financial contributions from parents are necessary. School Council has approved a policy which levies a range of charges on parents; these are compliant with the DET Policy for Parent Payments.

The 2025 Book Packs have now been distributed to all students in class.

I thank all parents/guardians who have already paid, or made arrangements to pay, their School Charges for 2025. For those parents who have not yet done so, I ask that you make payment in the near future, via one of the following options;

[Cash](#) [EFTPOS](#) [BPay](#) [Centrepay](#)

The General Office is open from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm each school day. We are happy to take payments in full or by instalment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Janine Schulze Business Manager.

Centrepay is a direct bill-paying service offered to customers receiving payments from Centrelink. Mount Pleasant Primary School is approved as a registered organisation for the Centrepay scheme and is able to take applications from families/guardians wishing to participate. Information brochures and Application forms are available from the School.

Eligible customers are encouraged to consider this option as an easy and effective way to pay school charges, camps and excursion costs.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) – 2025

We are now accepting applications for CSEF 2025. Application forms are available from the General Office. New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form

If you applied for the CSEF at Mount Pleasant Primary School in 2024, you do not need to complete an application form in 2025 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

Eligible families will receive \$154.00 per student, paid into the family account at Mount Pleasant Primary School. These funds can be allocated to school camps and excursions for 2025. I encourage parents to take advantage of this funding opportunity.

School Savings Bonus

In Term 4, 2024, families with a child enrolled in a government school from Prep to Year 12 in 2025 will receive the one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus. The \$400 School Saving Bonus provides families with support for education-related costs, such as school activities and/or school uniforms and textbooks. If you require any assistance please contact the school office.

Janine Schulze, Business Manager

Our Mounties Shine at Bulldogs Read Events

A big congratulations to the students in our Bulldogs Read Program for 2025, who were wonderful ambassadors and represented our school with pride at two events over the past fortnight.

Students and their families learned about the program and the opportunities ahead in literacy and sport at the Family Information Session at the Ballarat Library last Wednesday evening. Many thanks to the families who were able to supper their child/ren to attend—we were the most represented school on the night!

On Monday of this week, students joined 130 students from schools across Ballarat to learn about the nuts and bolts of the program—the expectations around reading, writing a book review and submitting it online, the librarian moderation process, and seeing their work on the world wide web. Students also learned of the sporting links to Bulldogs Read, the opportunities to see the Western Bulldogs players in action on and off the field, some chances to see some AFL

games live in Ballarat and Melbourne, and some of the amazing prizes on offer thanks to both the Western Bulldogs Football Club and the City of Ballarat.

At the welcome session on Monday, we were visited by two AFL players, James O'Donnell and Bailey Dale. Both players answered questions from students across the schools regarding their footballing life and their reading preferences as children themselves. Let's just say that Roald Dahl was a favourite for them both. There were a lot of smiles and nods from our students on hearing this.

Our Bulldogs Read Club will meet fortnightly on a Friday, to learn new skills and enjoy some of the books that we have been gifted, with thanks to the Bulldogs Read Program. This has been a wonderful connection for Mount Pleasant, and we are grateful for the chance to be involved in 2025. Stay tuned for some student book reviews in upcoming newsletters!

Miss Barnes and Mrs Brearley



Lunch Orders – Thursdays only

New Price List 2025

Off the Grill		Cold Food	
Chicken Parma Roll	\$6.00	BLT Roll	\$6.00
Chicken Schnitzel Burger	\$6.00	Cheese Roll	\$6.00
Vegetarian Burger	\$6.00	Chicken & Salad Roll	\$6.00
		Ham & Salad Roll	\$6.00
Hot Food		Salad Roll	\$6.00
Chicken Nuggets(3)	\$2.50	BLT Sandwich	\$6.00
Chicken Nuggets(6)	\$4.50	Cheese Sandwich	\$6.00
Dim Sim	\$1.50	Chicken & Salad Sandwich	\$6.00
Pie	\$4.50	Ham & Salad Sandwich	\$6.00
Party Pie	\$1.50	Salad Sandwich	\$6.00
Party Sausage Roll	\$1.50	BLT Wrap	\$6.00
Veggie Pastie	\$4.50	Cheese Wrap	\$6.00
		Chicken & Salad Wrap	\$6.00
Drinks		Ham & Salad Wrap	\$6.00
Orange Juice	\$2.50	Salad Wrap	\$6.00
Apple & Blackcurrant Juice	\$2.50		
Strawberry Milk	\$3.00	Snacks	
Chocolate Milk	\$3.00	Fruit Salad	\$3.50
		Yoghurt & Muesli	\$3.50