



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 2, Week 6
30th May, 2025**

From the Principal

Hello everyone

I am writing to you from the Year 5/6 DOXA Malmsbury Camp, where the sun has blessed us with its warmth and our students have embraced the adventure with open hearts. This camp has been a remarkable experience, filled with outdoor challenges that have tested their courage, teamwork, persistence, and determination. Watching them push past their limits and lift each other up has been truly inspiring. Beyond the physical feats, friendships have flourished, creating memories that I hope will stay with them for a lifetime—just as my own primary school camps have stayed with me. A huge thank you to the dedicated staff at our school and DOXA, whose support and hard work made this camp a seamless and enriching experience for all students.

Back at school, we are preparing for the Attitudes to School Survey, which will commence next week for students in Years 4-6. This survey is an important opportunity for our students to share their perspectives on their learning environment, relationships, and overall school experience. Their insights help shape ongoing improvements, ensuring that our school continues to grow in ways that best support their needs. We are committed to listening to their voices and using their feedback to enhance the culture, programs, and opportunities available to them.

One of the greatest joys as Principal is seeing our students grow from Foundation to Year 6, developing curiosity, resilience, and confidence. Their progress reflects the strong partnership between home and school, where shared expectations and open communication help them thrive. When we work together with a shared commitment to their learning and wellbeing, we create the foundation for bright, positive futures. Thank you to the families who actively

support this journey—your dedication makes a real difference in shaping the success of our students.

Change is part of every thriving school community, and while we celebrate growth, we also bid farewell to some incredible educators. Miss Harris (Year 4/5) is pursuing new opportunities away from Mount Pleasant, Miss Taylor (Foundation) is relocating to Melbourne, and Mrs Parkinson (Foundation/Year 1) is heading off on her much-anticipated family leave. Their contributions have been extraordinary, and they will be dearly missed by students, staff and families. We will welcome Ms Curtis-Harding (Foundation) and Ms Vinecombe (Foundation/Year 1), who will be joining us after the King's Birthday long weekend. I look forward to introducing them to our wonderful school community.

Finally, a reminder of upcoming key dates for your family calendars:

- **Monday, 9th June** – King's Birthday public holiday (no school)
- **Friday, 20th June** – Curriculum Day (no school), where our staff will engage in professional learning focused on wellbeing—an essential priority in education.

As always, I am grateful for our vibrant and supportive Mount Pleasant community. Together, we continue to navigate the challenges, celebrate the successes, and create opportunities for our students to thrive.

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**

Term 2 Calendar

Term 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 21st–25th April	April 21st Easter Monday holiday SCHOOL CLOSED	22nd	23rd	24th	25th Anzac Day Public Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Week 2 28th April–2nd May	28th	29th Make a Wish Book Fair	30th Book Fair (Parents welcome 3.00pm– 3.30pm)	May 1st Newsletter	2nd Assembly 9:00am
Week 3 5th–9th May	5th	6th	7th School Council Meeting 4.30pm–6pm	8th	9th Assembly 9:00am Mothers Day/Special Person Stall
Week 4 12th–16th May	12th	13th	14th	15th Newsletter	16th Assembly 9:00am Bulldogs Read Melbourne excursion all day Coat Swap 2.45pm— 3.30pm
Week 5 19th–23rd May	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd Assembly 9:00am
Week 6 26th–30th May	26th	27th	28th Year 5/6 Doxa Camp Malmsbury	29th Newsletter Year 5/6 Doxa Camp Malmsbury	30th Assembly 9:00am Year 5/6 Doxa Camp Malmsbury
Week 7 2nd–6th June	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th Assembly 9:00am
Week 8 9th–13th June	9th Kings Birthday Public Holiday–SCHOOL CLOSED	10th Bulldogs Read Ballarat Library excursion— postponed	11th	12th Newsletter	13th Assembly 9:00am
Week 9 16th–20th June	16th School Photos	17th	18th RESCHEDULED School Council Meeting 4.30pm	19th	20th Curriculum Day— SCHOOL CLOSED
Week 10 23rd–27th June	23rd	24th Year 5—Sovereign Hill	25th Year 5–Sovereign Hill	26th Newsletter	27th Assembly 9:00am
Week 11 30th June–4th July	30th	July 1st	2nd	3rd	4th Last day of Term 2, 2:15pm dismissal

ATOSS

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school. The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

Students from Year 4 to 6 at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion of the survey.

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. All responses to the survey are kept anonymous in the response file. Personal identification data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period Monday 2nd June to Friday 13th June. The survey only takes 20 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's class time.

The survey results will be reported back to the school before the end of Term 2. All survey data that is made available in



What is the Child Care Subsidy?

The Child Care Subsidy (CCS) scheme is an initiative organised by the Australian government to assist families using government-approved childcare. You can access this in OSHC with Extend at Mount Pleasant Primary School.

Every family must apply via [Services Australia](#) to have access to CCS. Once approved, you will receive a CCS entitlement.

To find out your possible maximum CCS entitlement, we recommend getting your CCS calculated by the [Starting Blocks CCS Calculator](#).

<https://startingblocks.gov.au/child-care-subsidy-calculator>

Programs	Times	Fees* (Early Bird Rate)	After CCS*
Before School Care	6:45am - 8:45am	\$28.71	\$2.87
After School Care	3:15pm - 6:00pm	\$38.31	\$3.83

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 4 of **Book Club** order forms went home today and are due back on Thursday **12th June**. Orders can be placed and paid for online via the LOOP or by completing the form on the catalogue and return to the school with cash.

Mrs Eames



Join the OSHC family and book now at extend.com.au

EXTEND UPDATE FROM TALIAH Mount Pleasant Primary School

Upcoming Activities in week 6:

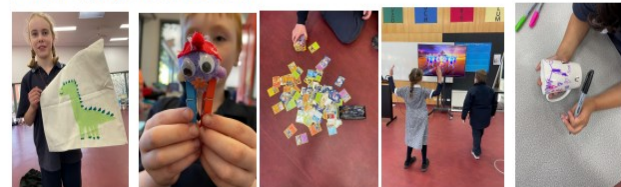
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Superhero training academy	'National Creativity Day' craft freedom	Baking zucchini muffins	Learning Tai Chi	Games night

The Extend Superstar is Abbey-May

For always taking care of our space and resources, and helping others do the same.

What's Been Happening?

We have been getting creative in Term 2. The children have enjoyed exploring with paint, clay, and sharpie to make many interesting creations. Some highlights have been decorating mugs for Mother's day and creating DIY tote bags, which have been getting lots of compliments. We have also begun writing our picture story book for Extend kids club competition and it is coming together wonderfully. We chose to write a story about dinosaurs going on a school camp.



Reach out to Taliah by emailing mtpleasant@extend.com.au to find out more about our service.

KIDS CLUB 2025

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Join Extend in Term 2 and create your own storybook as a group!

Top three best stories are published, with all winning participants receiving a copy and author credit!

Fantasy, Sci-fi, History, or something completely NEW, your imagination is the scale.



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT KIDS CLUB



So your child argues with you ... here's what to do

A positive parenting article from Michael Grose.

How to successfully respond when kids argue without tears, fears or cauliflower ears.

Most parents aren't equipped to handle an argumentative child or teen. We view their behaviour as disrespectful—behaviour unbecoming of our beloved child.

It's a parenting paradox that we want kids to be assertive at school but acquiescent and cooperative at home.

Kids practise on their parents.

It's important to remember that kids need to practise their assertiveness somewhere. This is a crucial part of their development and a sign that they are learning to navigate the world around them.

There is no safer and more nurturing place than their family for them to learn this vital life skill.

So, there is a tension between nurturing their assertiveness and expecting cooperative behaviour at home. That's why it's essential to build a bigger communication toolbox.

Build your communication toolbox.

Diversifying your **communication toolbox** is essential for successfully managing an argumentative child or teen.

Here are five tools that will help you:

1. Follow your instincts.

What does your gut instinct tell you about your child's arguing?

If you feel **annoyed** when they argue, they want your **attention**.

- Don't provide B-grade attention by arguing; instead, disengage. Ignore. Step away. Distract yourself. If you feel **angry**, then you're in a **power** play. Again, don't argue back, but be ready for the arguing to intensify.
- Your child wants to win. Disengage. If you don't, you're locked in a power play and want to win.

If you continue to argue, you will no longer be arguing about the original issue (which may have been going to bed on time).

Winning becomes the new issue.

You're stuck in a feedback loop with your child.

Good luck with that!

2. Watch your language.

Parents who continually use **coercive language** ("Do this." "I want it done now." "Because I say.") generally find that their kids will withhold their cooperation at some point. For some kids coercive language is an invitation to argue or procrastinate ("I'll go to bed, but I'll do it my own time.")

Take a different tack.

Tell your kids what you will do. ("I'm putting the meal on the table." "I'll say good night in five minutes." "I'll be going out the drive for school in five minutes.")

Then do what you say. This stops the power play in its tracks. You don't need to say anything else.

3. Go visual.

Use rosters, reminder charts, facial expressions, and other nonverbal methods to reinforce routines rather than



**Parenting
Toolbox.**

constantly reminding kids (with your voice) about their behaviours.

When you want something done, refer to the roster. "Whose turn is it to empty the dishwasher?"

Don't give your kids the chance to argue with you.

Save your words for teaching and relationship-building.

4. Discover your inner cat.

I've written extensively about this in [Anxious Kids](#) and [Spoonfed Generation](#), but here's a quick recap.

There are two sides to us as parents- the credible, firmer side (the cat) and the relationship-building, softer side (the dog).

When the cat speaks, your voice is flat and low, your head and body stay still, and you don't smile.

When the dog speaks, your voice goes high, your body leans in, and your face moves (smiles, scrunches, eyes widen, etc).

Try saying, "I want you to set the table, please," as a cat or a dog and see which way your child understands that you mean what you say.

Use your inner cat when you want cooperation. It works. Every. Single. Time.

5. Refuse to argue.

Kids don't act in a vacuum.

They generally argue with you because they know that they will get a response and that arguing will get them what they want.

Eventually.

Do as my wife does when I want to argue - respectfully find an excuse to go to another room and walk away.

Doh! I'm left to argue with myself, and that's no fun.

Sometimes, a child's out-of-character arguing is a message.

Out-of-character behaviors (such as out-of-character arguing) may indicate that things aren't going well for them, so be mindful when considering how to respond.

Follow your instincts, and you'll be fine.

Parenting is never cookie-cutter. "When your child does this, you do that" approaches don't work. Common sense and intuition does.

Putting it into practice.

Which of these ideas make sense? Which sings out, "Try me"?

If you want to try one of these tools, think through your response and practise it daily in low or no-stress situations.

Behaviour rehearsal is powerful. Regular practice helps a new technique become automatic.

Think, Rehearse, and Go Small is how to build a better parenting toolbox.

Students of the Week



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

Week 5

Amara (F), Cage (1/2), Charlie (2/3), Zebidy (1/2), Alexis (3/4), Sanaya (4/5), Lily (6).

Continue being your best!

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

	Term 2 Week 5	Term 2 Week 6
Foundation (Room 3)	Goanar, Elijah, Adara	Caylee, Azalea, Archer
Foundation/Year 1 (Room 1)	Molly, Dotty, Faith	Rico, Noah C, Caleb
Year 1/2 (Room 2)	Zebidy, River, Minha	
Year 2/3 (Room 9)		
Year 3/4 (Room 7)		
Year 4/5 (Room 5)	Millie, Parker, Abbey May	
Year 6 (Room 4)		

Prospective Family School Tours

I encourage our local families—new to the area or new to primary education, to come along and see our beautiful school. Personal tours for prospective families are available by appointment, and can be made by calling the school on 5332 3646.

Miss Barnes

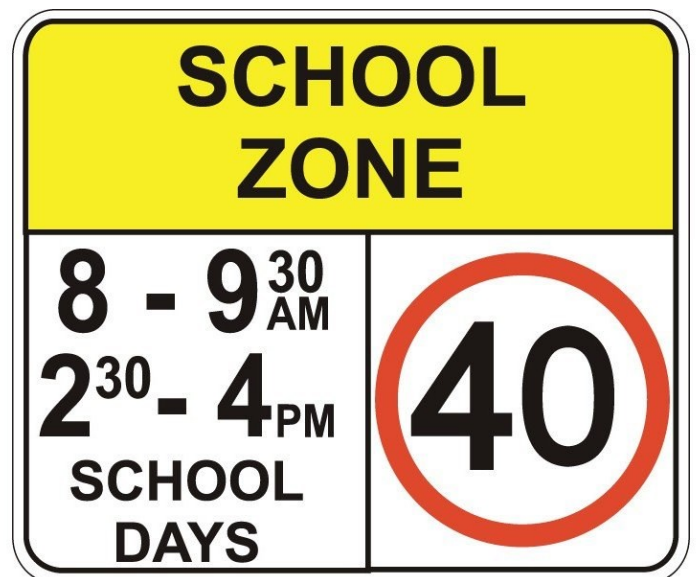
Drop Off & Pick Up Times

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.

Mount Pleasant PS is online



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.

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