

# Mount Evelyn Primary School

8th October 2020

Issue 12

NEWSLETTER



## Principal's Report

We are looking forward to welcoming all students back onsite next Monday and having them finish the school year with their friends and classmates. Our teachers have spent time during the term break and during the last few days setting up classrooms and planning the curriculum for the term ahead. We recognise that there will be much excitement and some anxiety around returning to school and re-establishing friendships and routines.

You should have received a letter via email and school stream late last week detailing the arrangements for staggered start and finish times for all students. They are also listed elsewhere in this newsletter. These arrangements are in place to ensure that adults are able to socially distance when dropping off/picking up children and, in most instances, not even get out of the car. Children will have allocated entry and exit points and these will be clearly labelled. Please help us out by explaining these arrangements to your child prior to the first day of school.

For the next two weeks, while our students settle back into the school routine, each day will begin and end with collaborative team building activities. This will not only give students a chance to reconnect with their friends but it will enable teachers to spend time with individuals and groups of students. We have also changed our timetable to create shorter learning blocks and have split the morning recess into two short 20min breaks rather than the usual 40min recess. This will provide our students with multiple movement breaks while rebuilding their learning stamina.

### Canteen Hours

The school canteen will reopen from Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for lunch orders only. No over the counter snack sales will be available. If students wish to order from the list of snack foods, this must be done as part of the lunch order and will be delivered to the classroom with the lunches.

### School Hats and Uniform

All students are required to wear school hats during term four. If you wish to purchase a new school hat for your child, please place an order by ringing the school office and arranging payment over the phone. Office staff will ensure that your child is fitted for an appropriate size and a named hat is delivered to the classroom before the first recess. Other uniform can also be ordered in the same way. We understand that sizing may be an issue and you prefer your child to try on new uniform before purchase. We do ask that no more than two families are in the main foyer at any one time. You may be asked to wait out the front of the school.

### Mt Evelyn PS joins The Fathering Project

In September Mt Evelyn Primary School officially became a participating school in The Fathering Project Schools Program. The Fathering Project aims to improve child development outcomes by inspiring and equipping fathers and father figures to effectively engage with their children. The Fathering Project delivers resources, programs and events specific to the engagement style and needs of dads and father-figures.



Why directly target fathers and father figures? We know that an effective father has a profound impact on the health and wellbeing of a child. Children do better in school when their fathers are involved in their school, regardless of whether their fathers live with them or live apart. Children whose fathers participate in school activities, meetings and events also enjoy school more, are less likely to have behaviour issues and are more likely to participate in extracurricular activities.

The Mount Evelyn PS Dads' Group- Our school would like to support a Mount Evelyn PS Dads' group by providing a space and opportunity for fathers and father-figures to gather, share, learn and bond with each other and with their children. Dads' groups provide mateship, a valuable support system and resources to help fathers engage with each other and their children. The key role of the Dads' Group is to plan and host activities within the school community.

Our Dads' Group will host four activities per year, two for dads only, and two for fathers with their children. These activities are an opportunity for dads to bond with their children and connect with other fathers.

Find about more about The Fathering Project and Dads' Groups via the following website. <https://thefatheringproject.org/>

### **Planning for 2021**

As we begin the final term for 2020 we also begin careful planning for the 2021 school year, including class placements and teaching arrangements. If you have any concerns regarding the placement of your child next year based on educational grounds, you may put these in writing and forward them to Angie by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October via the school office. Please be sure to reiterate any educational requests from previous years regarding your child's class placement to ensure all information is clearly outlined for 2021.

Please note also that requests for a particular teacher will not be acknowledged, as the educational needs of all children in the school must be considered and teacher movement across teaching teams is common practice at MEPS. This practice is a key component of building staff energy, collaboration and pedagogical knowledge.

Determining class placements is a complex task and staff members undertake a considerable process to ensure that the best possible placement is made to meet each student's educational needs. Factors that we take into consideration when making class placements include: academic achievement, personal/ interpersonal development, gender balance, whole class dynamics and other individual needs. It is important to understand that with so many factors to consider it is not possible to accommodate every request.

**Requests received after 30<sup>th</sup> October will not be considered.**

Have a great week

*Helen and Angie*

**We are a Sunsmart school so school hats must be worn during terms 1 and 4.**

Please ensure that your child has a named hat on their first day back at school. Hats are available for purchase from the school office.

Students without hats must play on the deck areas.





**Arrangements from Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> until further notice include:**

All students with surnames beginning with the letters **A to G** will begin the school day at 9am and will be dismissed at 3pm.

Students with surnames beginning with the letters **H to O** will commence the day at 9.15am and finish at 3.15pm.

Students with surnames beginning with the letters **P to Z** will start school at 9.30am and be dismissed at 3.30pm.

Please do not bring your child to school prior to this time as they will be unable to enter the school before their designated time. If you require care before or after these times, please register for the Out of School Hours Care Program ( OSHC) in which your child will be supervised outside of these hours and will be taken to and collected from their classroom.

All students will enter the school through clearly labelled gates and entry points. For the first few days, school staff will be at these points to welcome students back to school.

**Foundation** students will enter the school through the front door and will use the main gate.

**Year one and two** students will use the centre gate and will be directed to their classrooms from there.

**Year three and four** students will enter via the main gate and make their way through the Foundation playground to their classrooms.

**Years five and six** students will use the gate closest to the community building and make their way to the classrooms.

**FOOTY DAY FREE DRESS**

**Thursday 22nd October**

Come to school dressed in your favourite sporting team colours.

Special canteen lunch order day  
Order forms will be sent home on Monday 12th October