Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

School focus on Numeracy
As part of the Annual Implementation Plan this year, our focus as a school, is on Mathematics. I think it is important to inform you about how we are teaching maths in our classrooms. I will stress that teaching the computational skills required to be numerate citizens in society, is taught explicitly in every classroom. We also believe in the importance of teaching the students to apply those skills, in problem solving situations.

With the new Victorian Curriculum, open-ended maths tasks are integral in developing the proficiencies in the *Victorian Curriculum: Mathematics*. The level descriptions in the Victorian Curriculum have all been revised, to more fully articulate the proficiencies of understanding, fluency, reasoning and problem solving, in relation to achievement standards. Working on open ended tasks, supports mathematical learning, by fostering actions such as investigating, creating, problematizing, communicating, generalising and coming to understand procedures. Research has noted that student performance gains were greater, when tasks were both set up and implemented to encourage use of multiple solution strategies, multiple representation and explanations. We have not altered at all, the content that we are teaching in maths but have implemented a new approach, so that it fits in with the new Victorian Curriculum. An example of this is in the Year 5/6 classes, where they have taken on a fishbone approach to teach maths. For example, at the moment the students are learning the achievement standards of measurement and geometry and how they can apply that to problem solving situations. This may take 10 lessons to teach, six of the lessons are taught in their classrooms using an instructional model to explicitly teach skills required in measurement and geometry, and then the students are provided with open ended tasks. In the last 4 lessons all the 5/6 students are broken up into three ability groups so that the teachers can fill gaps, consolidate or extend the students learning depending on what group they are teaching. The timeframe for each Mathematics level descriptor will vary, as some take longer than others to learn. The other Year levels are not using the fishbone but have adopted the explicit teaching of computational skills and the application of the skills, to open ended tasks.

If you have any questions around this, please speak to your child’s teacher as they are more than happy to elaborate on the approach.

School Photos
As you aware we changed photographers this year thinking it would be good to reduce the costs involved in purchasing school photos for families. Unfortunately Advancedlife did not provide a quality product, even though they were cheaper. Therefore we have decided to go back to our original photographer, SchoolPix. I am just in the process of booking a date for 2017. Thankyou so much for being willing to try a new provider even though they didn’t come through for us!
**Student of the Month**

Congratulations to the following students for receiving Student of the Month for April. We are very proud of Jacob Defina (Principal Award), Logan Carter, Alexander Hart, Myles Desaily, Lola Embelton, Emma White, Isaac Mullinder, Ben Daly, Daniel Lacey (DJ), Myles Koelwyn, Lena Archer, AJ Kendall, Lana Harris, Caitlin Utting, Charlie Barge, Raynor Orme, Liam Smith, Hamish Dickinson, Sam Beecroft, Ava Harris, Zach Gates, Jace Martin and Lissy McPherson.

**Watoto Children’s Choir**

The town of Monbulk is hosting the Watoto Children’s Choir this year. The Watoto Children’s Choirs have travelled internationally since 1994 as advocates for the estimated 50 million children in Africa, orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, war, poverty and disease. Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto’s vision and mission through their stories, music and dance. Watoto choirs act as ambassadors to raise awareness about the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa.

Each of the children in the choir has suffered the loss of their parents either through war or disease. They live in Watoto children’s villages. The experience of the choir gives the children exposure to other cultures broadening their worldview. It also gives them confidence and boldness and helps them rise out of their own situations of sadness and despair.

We at Monbulk Primary School would like to host 9 of the children from the choir on July 13th. However one of the responsibilities we have with having them is we need four families to have the children and their adult minders stay overnight on July 12th. If you are interested in hosting two children and their minders for the night could you please contact me as soon as possible? It would be a wonderful experience for our school if we could have the children visit us.

**New Bell System**

We now have an automated bell system that plays music prior to the bell so that the children can have time to get a drink and go to the toilet. The music will be played at 8.55am, 11.25am and 2.25pm. All music played has been taken from a children’s version CD so that all the words of the songs are child friendly. It is lovely seeing the students enjoying the music.

**Wedding Bells**

On Friday April 29th, at assembly the Prep/1 class dressed up as bride and groom to surprise Miss Lawson. It brought Miss Lawson to tears and gave her such a wonderful surprise. On Saturday May 7th, Jess Lawson married Sam Holloway surrounded by all their family and friends. It was a beautiful day and Jess looked amazing. When Jess comes back from her honeymoon she will no longer be addressed as Miss Lawson but Mrs Holloway.

**Victorian Curriculum**

Liam Porter and myself attended a Professional Development Day on Friday 22nd in regards to our new Victorian Curriculum. It was good to hear there were not a lot of changes which makes it so much easier for teachers to adopt. However the few changes they have made are extremely beneficial. There are now four capabilities that we are having to explicitly teach to the students that prepare them for life. These are: Critical and Creative thinking, Ethical, Intercultural, and Personal and Social. Another change to the curriculum is that we no longer call computers ICT but Digital Technologies and we will have to teach students coding skills to help them solve problems. This is an area we will working on.

**Brain Gym**

On Monday April 18th the Prep to Year 1 classes were introduced to Brain Gym. A teacher from Mount Waverley Primary School modelled to the teachers and students exercises they can do on a daily basis to explore, develop, practise and refine skills essential for healthy neurological development. Research shows that by doing Brain Gym students learn more effectively. In the afternoon the teachers then spent time together planning how they will implement it into their daily program. We are looking forward to seeing the benefits.

**Attitude to School Survey**

Last week I conducted the Attitude to School Survey with the Year 5/6 students. The survey covers how the students are engaged in their learning, how they connect with their teachers and peers, how they feel about themselves as a learner and what they think about Monbulk Primary School in general. Looking at the responses at a quick glance it was looking very positive.

**Book Fair Dress Up Day**

Just a reminder that this Friday the children are dressing up as monsters or with monster hair to fit in with this year’s Book Fair theme of Monsters. The children will have the opportunity to visit the fair to purchase some wonderful books on offer. If you have any queries please contact Diane Daly on 0407 774 487.

Have a great weekend!

Lynn Ordish
Grade 3 Camp
At Mount Evelyn Recreation

Morning Walks: To kick off camp, we took an hour and a half walk through the Aussie bush—four whole kilometres through a faint smoky haze, along narrow trails and over little brooks. Then at last, at the end of our long trek through the wilderness, we discovered Mount Evelyn Recreation Camp ready and waiting for us.

Big Swing: At camp I went on the Big Swing. I went all the way to the top. I was really freaked out but it was fun.

Sally

Fly Fox: At camp I went on the Fly Fox. It looked scary from the height but I still took a run up and it ended up fun.

Ruby

Night Time: At night time we toasted marshmallows. They were very yummy. I loved them. We looked at the planets too. Lots of girls sang songs. So did Mr. Zappman.

Maddie

Cabin: At camp we had cabins. I was sharing with other girls. We talked all night. Our poor teachers.

Chyla

Meal: At camp, we had bacon and eggs, pizza and sandwich rolls. Pizza was the best.

Darcy

Free Time: We had fun and played lots of games. There was a basketball court. There was an oval. There was a playground.

Ruby

Overall thoughts: I went to the top of the Big Swing. It was so high. We also went on a playground. We also went on a flying fox. Thanks to the teachers because we had fun!!!

Maddie

Coming Home: And after a long two days, we hobbled tiredly into our parents' arms, ready for bed.

Special Thanks to Mrs. Young and Mrs. Suggate, Jennifer Mafford, our very special, well-behaved students, and to everyone else involved.
MOTHER’S DAY

Hoping all the Mum’s and Carer’s had a wonderful Mother’s Day on Sunday. As always all the children are a delight to see at the stall, with their big smiles of excitement and zip lock bags full of money, they brought from the heart. We have many wonderful helpers and produce maker’s that help make the day a true success. A very big “thank you” to Belinda Defina, Jackie De Haan, Bec Finlay, Dan Utting, Trudy Ross, Tara Hylton Stewart and Fiona McDade for produce and assisting the stall.

Raffle Winners:

1st – Charlie Wilson – Shauna Fit Voucher
2nd – Noah Rutherford – Belinda Defina Massage Voucher
3rd – Helen Kay – Guess Bag
4th – Jack Guglielmi – Women’s Weekly Cook Book
5th – Angelique Jury – Body Shop Pack
6th – Rhianna Kelly – Chocolate Cook book and Tupperware
7th – D J Lacy – Jewellery Pack
8th – Reanna Lawson – Pamper Pack

Our donations for the Raffle were from:

Shauna Fit – Shauna Lamers
Belinda Defina Massage

Thank you

Jo Rutherford

FOUND

An iPod shuffle was found in the vegetable garden area in front of the Senior School.

If anyone has lost an iPod please see Sandy Meyers at the office.

T h e 2 0 1 6
B o o k  F a i r  i s  a l m o s t  h e r e !

F r i d a y
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m o n s t e r  h a i r

Please keep the 20 November free for our School Fair

We are actively seeking sponsorship, if you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact the school office.

Bronze—Donation $250
Silver—Donation $500
Gold—Donation $1000

This is our major fundraiser run bi-annually and we would really appreciate any help we can get.
Ukulele lessons at Monbulk Primary

The ukulele is fun, easy, inexpensive and the perfect instrument for kids at all levels of primary school. Jess Dunn, ukulele teacher with 8 years experience is starting lessons on Wednesdays during school time at a cost of $12 per child in a group lesson (2 - 4 per group) for 25 minutes or $18 for individuals for 20 minutes. Trial lessons are available. For all bookings or more information, please contact Jess: 0408 102 542 jessdunn.arts@gmail.com

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Monbulk 1st Girl Guides invites you to their...

Help Guide a Guide To Tasmania
Trivia Night

BYO — Supper & Alcohol and gold coins for games on the night

**Saturday, 14th May 2016**
6.30pm - 11pm

At Monbulk Living and Learning Centre
Downstairs - Moores Rd entrance.

Tickets available now
$10 per head, 6-8 per table
Phone Rochelle — 0447 213 948

All proceeds raised will go towards supporting the Monbulk 1st Girl Guides Tasmania Adventure, September 2016. Thank you for your support!

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