Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of Term 1, time just seems to fly by. It has been a very busy one for students and teachers with a range of learning activities, Athletics Sports, Swimming competitions, a school camp, parent/teacher meetings, and extensive initial assessment of students by teachers as well as all the everyday activities that are part of school life.

Last week, teachers met in level teams to begin preparing for the term to come. Literacy and Numeracy have been meticulously planned and “Science” will be the concept taught and the major focus next term for all year levels.

It is amazing how much our Preps have grown over the past 8 weeks, they are now truly part of the Monbulk School family. They are still learning the routines but it is wonderful to see how engrossed they are in their learning activities and how enthusiastically they approach their work.

Condolences to the Baker Family
It is with much sadness that I inform the School Community that Warrick Baker passed away early Monday morning. We extend our love and sympathy to Rebecca, Tanisha, Tahlia and Jesse.

School Council
On Monday March 7th we held our AGM and reports were presented from all conveners celebrating the achievements of 2015 and the areas we hope to focus on in 2016.

We thanked our outgoing councillors- Luke Bibby and Fiona McDade. These councillors have contributed their time, talent and dedication to the improvement of our school for all students.

Our new School Council met for their first meeting. Positions were vacated and nominations were called for. Congratulations to our 2016 school council executive: President: Steve Woolcock
Vice President/Treasurer: Becky Scott
Minute Secretary: Daniel Jansen

Notices and Messages Sent Home this Week
Next installment of $50 for Grade 3 Camp due now with final payment of $50 due first week of term 2.
**Educational Research Projects (ERP)**
It was so wonderful to have such an amazing turn out to our Learning Expo night. Thankyou parents, grandparents, siblings and friends for attending and to Miss Tordy, Mrs Vranjes and Mr Zygmunt for organising it. Congratulations students on producing wonderful Educational Research Projects around the topic of Survival!

**Monbulk Primary School Athletics Day**
What a fantastic day! The students were such keen participants and did their house teams proud. Thankyou to all the parents that attended and helped out on the day. A big thankyou for all the organisation and hard work of Mrs Thomson. I’d like to thank the teachers for their hard work and the way in which they encouraged the students.

**Grandparents Afternoon Tea**
It was lovely for our Prep and Year 1 students to have their grandparents or significant adult attend a beautiful afternoon tea with homemade hot cross buns last Wednesday. Thankyou to Mrs Wall, Miss Lawson and Miss Lansdell for organising it all and to the students who made this time a memorable time.

**Painting of senior toilets and hallway**
The senior toilets have now been painted and the floors stripped back making them feel much fresher. The hallway in the senior portables will be painted over the holidays making that area a lot brighter. We have also purchased new chairs for those classes that still had the cloth blue chairs. This will mean there will be no class in the school with those old chairs.
Swimming Relay Team
Congratulations to Maddie, Poppy, Scarlett and Charlie for making the Regional final in the freestyle relay! We appreciate the amazing effort they put into this race!

Student of the Month
Congratulations to our Student of the Month students: Jimmy Heap, Lucy Van Vugt, Jackson Hee, Amelia Hodgson, Abby Rayson, Nicola Marnock, Ruby Willoughby, Matilda Salan, Lucy Jackson, Holly Judd, Max Marotta, Ella James, Keely Petersen, Rihanna Kelly, Charlie Wilson (Japanese), Marcus Van Berendonck, Tom Doddrell, Noah Rutherford, Reanna Lawson, Lily Judd, Harrison Sproat, David Barr Sanford, and Michael Broadbent!

Information you can now find on the new website
The 2016 Annual Implementation Plan has now been endorsed and is on our new website under School Council. If you are interested in seeing our school goals for 2016 and what strategies we intend to implement please have a read.

An Events Planner to notify you of things that are occurring in the term will be on the website. Just note this is subject to change. You will find this under notices on the website.

Excursion, Incursion and Camp notices will be found under notices on the website when they come up.

National Assessment Program (NAPLAN):
The next round of the annual National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be conducted in May 2016. The NAPLAN tests will involve all students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 from all states and territories across Government, Catholic and Independent Schools. The NAPLAN tests will be conducted on Tuesday May 10, Wednesday May 11 and Thursday May 12. Data from this test is used to make public judgements on a schools performance via the MYSCSCHOLS website. We do however get a very good picture internally of how our children are performing and assist in both planning and then reporting of student performance along with many other forms of assessment teachers carry out.

Every Day Counts!
It has been brought to my attention that some students have already missed several days of school. Given that we have only been at school for a few weeks, this pattern of absence can become a real concern.

Going to school every day is the one of the most important parts of your child’s education. Students learn new things every day and missing school puts them behind.
Why regular attendance is so important
Teachers often present new concepts in a sequential way, so missing out a day of school can mean missing out on the fundamentals. It’s hard to make up this learning so keeping student absences to a minimum is essential.
Friendships and socialising can also be interrupted when children are frequently absent, which can be distressing for children.
Every day that a student misses is associated with lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.
What we do know is that attendance patterns are established early in life and will often continue unless non-attendance is addressed.

What you can do to support regular attendance.
First, there are always times when a student becomes ill, and in this instance they should stay home to recover. It’s vital however that they are only away when genuinely sick.
To assist with good health and minimise illness children need to have a good sleeping pattern, eat well and exercise regularly.
Families are encouraged to think twice before giving children a ‘day off’ unless they are genuinely sick.
If your child is experiencing any issues such as not wanting to come to school then please alert your classroom teacher. Working together on such matters is most helpful.

What to do if your child has been absent
Talk to your child’s teacher and find out what work needs to be done to keep up with learning.
Remember, that every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher especially if the absence is longer than a couple of days.

I would like to thank all staff, students and families for a wonderful term!. It has been a great Term One at Monbulk Primary School and we look forward to this continuing in Term Two.

I would appreciate if you see anyone acting suspiciously or inappropriately around the school grounds please contact the Monbulk Police Station on 9756 6258 or the Emergency Management area of the Department of Education and Training (DET) on 9589 6266.
We look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday, 11th April.

Wishing you a safe and wonderful holiday!

Lynn Ordish

**LOST PROPERTY**
We have a very large amount of uniform (mainly hoodies and jackets) in our lost property basket at the bottom of the stairs in the Junior Building.

We will go through everything. All named items will be returned to their owner. However, there is a tremendous amount of stuff that is unnamed, some of which is brand new.

This is a timely reminder that you must take the time to properly name all school uniform. It is helpful to name jackets in two areas, on the label and on the band of the jumper in case the label is ripped off.
**Anything unclaimed at end of day will go to the Op Shop across the street.**
Grade 2OH’s
Mini Food Excursion in Monbulk

This term, our grade studied the topic ‘Paddock to plate’ as part of an inquiry unit. To explore this topic, our class set out on a walk down the main street of Monbulk to investigate the food products that we would need to purchase to make a fresh meat and salad sandwich.

Mrs Lamport’s grade also went but on a different day to ours.

We recorded how many food shops there were in Monbulk, including supermarkets, bakeries, butchers, takeaway businesses and restaurants. We visited some of these shops to purchase the ingredients we would need to make our sandwich so we could be more mindful of the process of obtaining the food we eat, and be more aware of the variety of food produce we have available to us.

We had lots of fun walking down the street and came across many friendly Monbulkians along the way! The people of Monbulk were very excited to see our class down the street, and the shop owners were lovely and helpful. We even got free apples and some hedgehog donated to us!

When back at school, we made and ate our yummy, freshly-made ham, salad and cheese sandwiches. Students enjoyed the excursion down the main street of Monbulk.

Thank you to Rhonda Halliday and Felicity Hayes for accompanying our grade on the mini excursion. Here are some of the students’ recounts of the experience:

**My excursion by Joseph Khair**
On Friday we went to almost all the shops. We went back to school. I had two sandwiches. I went to Woolworths. I loved it!

**Our Mini Excursion by Oliver Atkins**
When we went up the street we stopped at the Fruit Bowl and got apples and lettuce. The we stopped at the butcher and got the ham. It comes from a pig. I had a fun time and the sandwich was fresh, delicious and great. The best sandwich ever!

**Our Walk Down The Street by Lena Archer**
On Friday we walked down the street to get some stuff for a sandwich. First we went into the fruit shop. I went in with Rhonda. We bought twenty six apples, but I couldn’t eat an apple because of my wobbly tooth. Then we went into the butcher and we got shaved ham. Then we went to look at the bakery. They gave us hedgehog slice and we also stopped at the supermarket and bought cheese and butter. We figured out that there is twenty shops in Monbulk’s street, so that means that the whole of my grade can have a shop each! I would want the supermarket because it is really big, but I can’t because there are already people working in the supermarket. I had lots and lots of the sandwiches. They were nice.

**Our Fun Friday by Piper Willoughby**
Our first stop at the shops on Friday was the Fruit Bowl. We got some apples. Then we went to the butchers for ham. We also went to the bakery and got some bread. We got butter and cheese from the supermarket. We got some hedgehog from a lady from the bakery. I really enjoyed the walk. I was a bit tired after it.
The Preps and Grade One’s held an afternoon tea for their Grandparents on 16th March. The children had made hot cross buns with their buddies help. (Thank you Edison’s Bakery and Grade 5/6 buddies!)

Here are Grade 1W’s recounts of the occasion:

Pa and I played games and we had fun. (By Nicola).

Poppy said he didn’t have computers and he didn’t have feathers and ink. (By DJ)

We played noughts and crosses. (By Marley)

We played Beetle. We played paddocks. We played noughts and crosses. We played Snakes and Ladders. (By Ben)

We had hot cross buns. (By Ryan)

Mum didn’t have computers until grade three. They only had one in grade three. She did have blackboards. (By Jack T)

My Grandma’s name is Ali. I call her Grandma. We played Paddocks and Noughts and Crosses and we played Beetle. We had hot cross buns! They were very yummy! (By Emily)

I won all of the games and the hot cross buns were yum. (By Jack G.)

The games were fun and the hot cross buns were yummy. (By Oliver)

I had a good time playing with my mum’s dad. (By Kayla)

We played Beetle. (By Cohen)

I love you Nanna and Papa. (By Abby)

There were games to play. (By Maddie G)

I played a lot of games and we had hot cross buns. (By Alyssa)

Did you have playgrounds and tables? Nan said she had high desks. (By Madison)

I had a good time playing Snakes and Ladders with my mum. (By Shayan)

We had hot cross buns. (By Jackson)

We played Paddocks. We played games. (By Jack F)

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**TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

Lower Level  
The Hub  
Living and Learning Centre  
Monbulk

Every Friday evening 7.30 to 9.00pm  
$5 per session.

Discounts available for Annual Memberships, Pension Card holders and families.

**LOST**

An Irish wedding band style ring was lost in the top yard.

The ring design is two hands holding a heart and there is a diamond in the centre. The ring is made of gold.

It was last worn in the top yard of the school and holds tremendous sentimental value to its owner. If anyone has seen this ring lying anywhere in the school, please return it to the office.

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**Massive Plant Sale**

Monbulk Recreation Reserve Development Group  
Proudly presents

**SATURDAY 2nd APRIL**

8AM onwards

Rec. Reserve Moores Road Monbulk

All proceeds to go towards NEW COMMUNITY PAVILION at Moores Road Rec. Reserve for the whole community  
Wholesale & Retail Sales Welcome

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24 March 2016
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The Book Fair is coming!
Thursday 12 May.
Dress up as a spooky monster and you could win a prize!