Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome Back
Welcome to 2017 school year! I feel very honoured to be the Principal at such an amazing school! We are in for a fantastic year of learning together and building strong relationships. Every staff member at Monbulk Primary School is committed to helping every student succeed.

New Staff
Welcome Elizabeth Beattie to Year 3/4 and we wish her a very successful year!

Home-School Communication
My door and the teacher's door is always open should any parent need to chat. Our number one priority is the engagement, wellbeing and care of all students at Monbulk Primary School and we are always happy to hear feedback on the improvements we are making and what we can do to better assist our students.

Of course, your child’s class teacher is your first port-of-call. Should the need arise to speak directly to a staff member; you can contact us and we will organise an appointment at a mutually convenient time either before school or after school. Please allow us time during school hours as we concentrate our efforts on the children. It is very important that we devote our attentions and ‘duty of care’ to our school’s students throughout each school day.

Getting Acquainted Meetings
As part of our formal communication process we have our Getting Acquainted Meetings during the week of February 13th to 17th. A questionnaire has been sent out so that you can fill it in and send back to your child’s classroom teacher prior to meeting with them. There will be a timetable placed on each classroom door for you to fill in a time that suits. Some teachers may have varied times that are outside of these dates.

We invite you to come along and meet with your child’s teacher for a brief 10 minute discussion. This discussion will provide an opportunity for you to:
- Share information about your child so the teacher has a thorough understanding of their individual circumstances
- Assist the teacher in identifying the personal learning needs of your child
- Ask any questions that you may have regarding the school’s programs and curriculum.

As this evening will occur early in the term, it is important to understand that the purpose of this discussion is for the teacher to become acquainted with your child and family. On this occasion, the teacher will not be reporting on your child’s academic progress.

Key Diary Dates

Term 1:

January 30—March 31
15 February—Uniform shop now open on Wednesday mornings not Tuesday.
15 February—Issue 1/2017
Scholastic Book Club due.
22—24 February—Sovereign Hill Camp, Grade 6 only.
3 March—Christopher Morgan Author of “Forestium: The Mirror Never Lies” will visit the Grades 5/6’s.
9th March—Family Maths Night

Expect more - Achieve more!

Notices Sent Home this Week

Rooms 3,4 and 5 are walking up the street to explore and identify the Monbulk Community.
Can you help with Grade 2 Cooking Classes.
Thankyou to the Norris Family
Thankyou to Miley and Mckinley’s family for donating a mini fridge to store our epipens.

Donation
Over the holidays Stihl manufacturers had a chainsaw wood carving competition and they have so generously donated one of the pieces to our school. A big thankyou to Matt Norris and Daniel Jansen for picking this up from Skyhigh. It was such an enormous task as it took five men to pick it up! We really appreciate them giving up their time on Saturday.

Curriculum
Last year we made Numeracy a focus and worked on a whole school approach to open ended and problem solving tasks. To celebrate this we will be running a Family Maths Night on Thursday March 9th. More details about the night will be given closer to the date but it will be a fun filled night showcasing the approach to maths that we take on at Monbulk Primary school.

Literacy and Numeracy will always be a focus for us every year but this year we are looking closely at writing. During this term the teachers will be undertaking professional development with a Writing Consultant, Julie Shepherd. Julie will be coaching the teachers through a whole school approach to writing and the writing conventions.

Netbooks
We have been able to purchase 15 more netbooks for the Year 3-6 classes this year. This now means we have 75 netbooks to be shared amongst the classes.

Year 6 Sovereign Hill Camp
Just a reminder for parents to get camp payments in for our Year 6 camp to Sovereign Hill. It will be a fantastic experience for the students as they travel back to the Gold era.

Welcome to our new students for 2017
Welcome to the following students that have just started at Monbulk Primary School: Trent Bottrell, Holly Carroll, Amelie Clunie, Finn Clunie, Emma Cunningham, Jake Gibson, Tyson Gibson, Autumn Hendricks, Bailey McConchie, Harrison McConchie, Lachlan McConchie, Mahlea Poole-Poidimani, Joshua Smith, Finn Taffe, Kaitlyn Thompson, Eden Thomas and Jakob Thomas. To our Prep students: Jordy Carian, Stella Dunstan, Zac Elfrink, Aurelia Fleming, Adele Francis, Mitch Fraser, Rorie Garbutt, Lily Hutton, Alex Jones, Callan Mitchell, Amber Mongan, Cash Myres, McKinley Norris, Thomas Phylan, Sophia Small, Elora Strong, Ashton Vandeleur, Linnae Wilkinson, Harri Arnott, Jaxon Carruthers, Hudson Comfort, Tyson Cross, Israel Hendricks, Charlotte Jansen, Toby Lepore, Summer Makaay, Nerida Pascoe, Maisy Poole-Poidomani, Audrey Ross, Hunter Sweet, Scarlett Thorp, Emma Thyssen, Ava-Lee Young.

School fees
Our school is proud of the educational experiences it offers and the generous support from the school community. To sustain and build on these, we do seek your support in the payment of school fees. Remember the essential fees pay for all the student supplies, resources, cooking, computers and much more. If a payment plan is required please come and see me. I do thank you so much for your cooperation. Thanks to those who have already been in to pay.

School Photos
Just wanting to give plenty of notice that our school photos will be on Thursday April 20th. More information will be given early next term.

Visiting the School
A reminder to everyone that we have a policy which requires all visitors to report to the office first when entering the school. Should you need to visit the classroom, see your child at recess or are a helper at school, please report to the office first, to sign the visitor’s register and pick up your visitor’s tag. This ensures that in an emergency we are able to account for all people at school.
Update to ‘Bush Fire at Risk’ Policy for Schools
As our school is listed on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR), this policy impacts our school community and it is important that you are aware of it. Currently, all government schools and early childhood services listed on the BARR are required to preemptively close where a Code Red FDR day has been determined. This policy provides us an option to relocate or close our school if an Extreme FDR day places our school at too great a risk. A decision to close or relocate the school will not be taken lightly and will be done so, following close consultation with our regional office and Emergency Management Victoria. If our school was to enact a relocation or closure, notification will be given to the entire school community no later than 3.00pm the day prior to the forecast Extreme FDR day.

Please note that this year they have changed some schools’ Bush Fire Policies as they have been rated as a higher risk school therefore closing on days deemed Extreme Heat days. We are not one of those schools but Monbulk College is due to their location. This will affect some of our families as they have children in both schools. So we suggest that you enact your fire plan procedures as planned. Monbulk Primary School will be open on extreme heat days. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the office.

School Council 2017
There are many ways that we seek contribution and support from our parent body. One of which is the governing body of our school—School Council. School Council is made up of a group of interested people from within our community and the break up is such;

- 5 staff (including myself as the Executive Officer)
- 8 parent members
- 1 community member

Our School Council typically meets on the second Monday of each month starting at 7pm and in addition, we request councilor’s involvement in sub-committees (other members of our community also contribute to these sub-committees as well) which are determined each year. In 2016 we had the following sub-committees;

- Education
- Finance
- Buildings & Grounds
- Fundraising

A typical term of membership to School Council is two years but on some occasions councilors may opt to only serve for one year.

We are now starting the process to elect members to the School Council for 2017. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school office and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Thursday February 16th, 2017.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NO. OF POSITIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent and community members</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2017 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2019</td>
<td>2</td>
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I am looking forward to partnering with you in providing the best learning opportunities for your child/children this year!

Have a great weekend!

Lynn Ordish

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URGENT HELP NEEDED—CAN YOU HELP

Our school Op-Shop is urgently seeking a few volunteers this month to fill some vacancies. The Op-Shop is the school’s largest fundraising activity, even eclipsing our fabulous fair, and relies completely on a team of wonderful volunteers. Each session is only 3 hours, and we are more than happy to have volunteers only help for one session a month (although more is always welcome). The Op-Shop provides a great opportunity for parents, grandparents, and our local community to contribute to the success of our wonderful school. At this stage we are seeking assistance for Monday afternoons, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday mornings, and Friday mornings. Could you please let your family and friends know about this great opportunity, and contact either our staffing co-ordinator Dorothy on 0438 888 703 or myself on 0432 156 526 if you are able to assist.

Thanks,

Steve Woolcock
CSEF (Camps, Sport and Excursion Fund)
To be eligible for this fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending our school must:

- On the first day of term one, or:
- On the first day of term two:
  (a) Hold a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card, or
  (b) Be a temporary Foster Parent, and:
  (c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply.

Eligibility Dates
For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of term 1 (30 January, 2017) or term 2 (18 April, 2017).

Closing Date
Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 28 February, so that payments can be made from March 2017 and of course the sooner you get the form lodged the sooner you can access the funds. However schools can accept parent applications up until the end of May.

The forms are available from the office and we will need to take a copy of your relevant concession card when you the lodge the form.

Payment Amount
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student. Primary students are entitled to $125 per year.

For further information see Sandy Meyers at the office.

UNIFORM SHOP

From next week the Uniform Shop will be open on Wednesday mornings not Tuesday mornings from 9.00am to 9.30a,m.
Metafit is a 30 min body weight exercise class, where you will be pushed to your max fitness level. It will get your heart rate up and set your metabolism on fire. You will get results for a fit summer body. Come along and give it a go, your first class will be FREE.

Metafit is for everyone, give it a go.

This class is held at Ninja Stars Dojo in Main Street, Monbulk.

Winery Tour

Monbulk Township Christmas Decoration Fundraiser

The 9th of April 2017

What you get:

- Professional Tour guide
- Wine tasting at Six Paddocks, lunch at handsome winery, wine and cheese tasting at Seville Hill, a fun day out
- $18 per person, leaving Monbulk (police station) at 10.30am back in Monbulk at 4.00pm
- 5% deposit required to secure your seat on the bus

For bookings call: Sherrlene 9447 782, 394 or Yoko 9447 966 437