PRINCIPAL’S REPORT  
20th June 2013

End of term

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another term and are almost half way through the year. Next term will be a busy one with the Music Festival and the School Concert.

Reports and Student Support Group meetings

Teachers are busy writing reports which will be ready to be sent home the first week of term 3 this will be followed by Student Support Group Meetings during the next two weeks. More details of these meetings will come home shortly.

Music Festival- Wednesday 7th August

Preparations are underway for this year’s SMR Special Schools Music festival which is on Wednesday 7th August. This year Rooms 1, 2 and 6 will be involved they have selected their music and have begun to practice their item. Costumes will be the next item on the agenda. As usual the Music Festival is held at City of Kingston Town Hall, Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin. Parents/carers, family and friends are invited to attend. More details will come home next term.

School Concert Tuesday 17th September

Our concert this year will be held on Tuesday 17th September which is the last week of term three. This year Drama and Media students from Woodleigh School will be working with our students on a joint project around the pre-concert preparations, rehearsals and the actual performance on concert night. As part of this project Woodleigh have kindly offered the use of their Performing Arts Centre for the evening’s performance. Both schools are looking forward to taking part in this exciting project.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable break. Snuggle up and stay warm!!!

Robyn Simmonds
Principal

STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

June – Vicky
July – Lizzy
Tommy
Adriana
Hayden
Jacob
Haydn

28th June - End of Term 2

Early Dismissal 2.30pm

Reminder!

Term 2

27th June – Crazy Hat Day
28th June - End of Term 2
15th July – Start of Term 3
31st July – Literacy & Numeracy week
7th August – Music Festival
15th August – School Photo’s
17th September – School Concert
20th September – End of Term 3
In Room 7 we have been using chip peas and toothpicks to make and create enclosed shapes. These shapes have started as 2 dimensional shapes and have now become 3 dimensional shapes. The students have used triangles and squares as a basis for pyramids and cubes.

Andrew  Jarod  Ben Alex

We also have been working hard to keep our vegetable garden neat and tidy!

But we always make sure there is some time for fun!
With winter officially upon us, Bunnings kindly donated their services and equipment last Thursday to come and help our student’s plant their winter crop for the ‘Edible Garden’. Despite the cold and rainy conditions a good time was had by all potting seedlings in pots such as spinach, curly lettuce, carrots and dwarf beans. The students are now waiting for a clear sunny day to plant the plants in our garden beds.

Mornington Special Developmental School would like to take this opportunity to thank Bunnings for donating their time and the following goods: a dwarf lemon tree, seedlings, gardening gloves, pea straw and worms for our worm farm.
May’s newsletter item.
In 1988 Mornington SDS was up and running in our new school. For the next three years Ron Chalmers the Principal of Tanti Primary School lived up to his word and the two schools participated in a variety of activities including joint lessons at the Primary school. Our students attended library, art, reading recovery, P.E. and sport with their peers. Our basketball team competed against Tanti Primary School during interschool basketball games.
Now with our very own building MSDS set out to provide our school community with a sense of pride and identity. A competition was held to design a logo, a uniform and ‘The link ‘the school magazine was born. Parents were asked to design a logo suitable for our uniform. The competition was a great success with many excellent entries with the winning one designed by Martin Booth, who was School Council President at that time. The design is as you now know it and the meaning of the logo is as follows:

“This is an aerial view of 3 people in a ‘ring-a-rosy’ position. They all have their hands joined. The white figures on the black background represent the community at large. The black figures represent the child (and their family). This child is outside the mainstream but wishing to be included gradually. The difference in colour of the symbols recognizes the obvious difference, but they play ‘ring-a-rosy’ undeterred. In fact, the game is incomplete without all the players.”

Our school motto: ‘Independence Through Learning’

It was decided that the colours of our uniform would be navy blue and red with the logo on a white background. The school uniform was much as it is now, a bomber jacket, t-shirt, skivvy and windcheater. Teachers also wore the uniform proudly. ‘The Link”, our school newspaper so named as it was seen as a link between home and school. It was by today’s standards poorly presented with staff hand writing their articles and cutting out actual photos and pasting them on to the corresponding article. Each page was then photocopied and stapled together. Examples of the Link now available in the foyer.

As the number of students wishing to attend Mornington SDS rose, the four classrooms provided became inadequate. Ron gave us a room in the Tanti School where a junior group operated. Our students utilized all the same facilities and play times as their Tanti peers. Tanti students would often participate in our classroom activities and vice versa. This was a highly successful opportunity which was embraced by both schools.

MSDS was approached by Mornington Council to conduct an Early Education Program which was introduced two mornings a week. These sessions were held in the gallery as there were no other room available.

It was easy to see we had out grown our new school........................more next month!
As you know, our school has been participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. The program has now finished for this year, so a big thanks to everyone who supported our school.

We’re now at the important stage of the program where Points Sheets are collected and lodged as our Earn & Learn claim. We will then be able to get new educational equipment for our school. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. So this week please send in your Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheets and any loose Earn & Learn Points Stickers you may have. Remember to check your handbag, the car glove box or they maybe stuck on the fridge. Every little bit helps. Thanks again for all your support!

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are planning a crazy hat or hair day for Thursday 27th June and to be a part of this exciting day are asking each pupil to put on their funniest hat or put their hair into a fabulous “do”. We have a great day planned that involves a range of activities, games, competitions and a parade to show off our crazy hat or hair.

A gold coin donation would be appreciated and will go towards restocking our garden. We hope to open our garden shop in spring when the vegetable and herbs will be in abundance. We have a small crop of spinach and bok choy available now for our cooking lessons.
The school holidays are approaching fast and what a great opportunity while catching up with family and friends to also sell a raffle ticket or two!

Remember every $2 ticket sold Mornington SDS will earn $1.50 and the money raised will go back into the school program, which benefits your child!

**The school will earn $1.50 for every $2 ticket sold.**

Each family has been allocated one or two books of 10 tickets to sell. We ask you to try and sell as many of these tickets as you can. Once you have sold the tickets please returned the money and the ticket stubs to Karen or Chris in the office.

If you would like more tickets please contact the office and we will arrange for another booklet to be sent home.

All tickets stubs, money and unsold tickets must be returned to school by 19th July

Robyn Simmonds
Principal
NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY WEEK

29TH July - 4TH August
Please help us celebrate National Literacy and Numeracy week in Term 3!

On Wednesday July 31st from 11.00 to 12.00 students will be playing Numeracy games and doing activities outside on the basketball court or on the verandah.

On Thursday August 1st for Literacy Day, each room will be featuring a favorite book. Students will visit each room, listen to the story, and have an activity to do.

We would love students to come to school on Literacy Day wearing something to do with their group’s featured book.

Activities will be from 9.30am to 10.30 and 11.00am to 12.00

Please come along and watch the activities - we would love to see you!

---

Students take the lead

MORNINGTON Special Developmental School presented badges to school captains and student voice representatives at a recent assembly.

The Student Voice is a new initiative at the school, giving students more say in the running of the school. Student reps meet with two teachers once a fortnight to discuss suggestions for improvement. They then prepare a proposal for change, which they present to the principal.

Assistant Principal Susan Page said giving students a voice in school organisation fosters responsibility and a sense of belonging. Parents were also acknowledged at the assembly for their contributions to the school community.

Mavrick and Simone Bridges.

Newspaper article that appeared in the
Mornington Leader