Dear Parents/Carers,

The last couple of weeks of term have been very busy indeed. We have had, 2 teams in the basketball Grand Final, students musical performances at the Family Christmas BBQ, Volunteers morning tea, a visit from DEECD SEV Regional director John Allman, a fundraising BBQ at Bunnings and finally the Graduation Dinner for our exiting students Eric, Daniel and Jordan.

**Transport 2015:** All families that access the school bus will receive a letter this week confirming bus pick up and drop off times and places for 2015.

**Graduation:** Last night three of our Senior students Daniel, Eric and Jordan graduated. We celebrated the end of their school years with a formal dinner and presentation in the very pleasant surroundings of the Mornington Senior Citizens Club rooms. The evening was attended by staff, family and friends, lots of memories, photos and laughter where shared as well as a few tears. It was a wonderful evening of celebration. We wish Daniel, Eric, Jordan and their families all the very best for the future.

**Final Assembly:** Our final assembly for this year will be held on the last day – Friday, 19th December at 12.30pm in Room 10.

**Dates for the Start of Next Year:**
- Please pencil in your diaries the following dates for next year.
  - Wednesday, 28th January 2015
  - Thursday 29th January 2015
  - Tuesday 9th June 2015
  - Monday 2nd November 2015

**Staff:** As this is the last newsletter for the year I would like to thank the dedicated staff for all the hard work they have put in throughout the year to bring interesting and challenging learning opportunities for the students at Mornington SDS.

**Long Service Leave:** In Term one 2015 I will be taking long service leave for the whole term, in my absence my Assistant Principal Sue Page will take on the role of Acting Principal.

I wish all families an enjoyable Christmas, New Year, & a relaxing break and a good start to Term one in 2015

Robyn Simmonds
Principal
The annual Family Christmas BBQ was again a great night for students, families & Staff to catch up and enjoy the wonderful Mornington SDS choir while partaking in a sausage cooked to perfection by Iain Hogg and then have an ice cream or fruit for dessert, and to top off the night Santa came and handed out lollies and listened to Christmas wishes.
MORNINGTON S.D.S FAMILY CHRISTMAS BBQ
**Gardening News**

After a short set back induced by the cold winter our plants have thrived! For a while there it had become a competition of garden signs and what wonderful signs they are too! Room 2 even had a solar light to help their vegetables grow at night!!!!

Jenny Mann from Bunnings came to school to judge our competition - Room 5 had the very, very best beets.

Room 7 won the award for best cabbages, with a highly commended to the administration staff for their amazing efforts and room 3 won best silver beet. Rooms 1 and 5 had the “Afternoon Tea Challenge” to make something from the beetroots they grew - Room 5 made beetroot pancakes with chocolate sauce and room 1 made a beetroot chocolate cake - yum or strange combination?!

This week we had a welcome visit from Brian from Masters who brought us lettuces and snow peas on steroids which we planted in terracotta pots to take home. Brian quickly became a gardening sensation in our school and he has promised to come back next week to help us with other parts of our garden including our fruit trees.

**News flash** - We have had fruit on our cumquat tree!!

**Then** and **Now**!

Our gardening shop is open, and we have some produce **for sale**. If you would like to purchase any vegies your child will harvest them on the day to make sure its fresh - we have silver beet, parsley and beetroot at the moment - lettuces, coriander and basil nearly ready.

**Cost** - a gold coin donation towards continuing our kitchen garden program.
Congratulations to Ben H for winning 3rd prize in the Scouts—Our School Raffle, his prize a family trip for 4 to China

Well Done Ben!

3rd Prize
4 X Economy Airfares to Cheng Du from Sichuan Airlines valued at $4,000

Mornington SDS made the news!

Mornington Leader—Tuesday December 2, 2014

SWINGIN’ AROUND: Cayden, Jaimee and fellow students at Mornington Special Development School have been hanging out for their new $8000 bird’s nest swing. The Variety Club generously donated the new swing to the school last month. School staff thanked local Variety Club members John and Katherine Mackie.
Team 1 played hard and fast and although there were only 5 of them (no subs) they played out of their skin & were up at half time, unfortunately the other team pulled away and ended up winning, but only by 7 points.

Team 2 also played hard and fast and all players had a touch of the ball and had a go. Unfortunately beaten by a better team on the day, everyone who played received a medal and did the school proud.

Well Done Both Teams!

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraising success

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make last weekend’s Bunnings sausage sizzle a great fundraising success where we raised $1500.00 Thank you to Iain Hogg, Valerie Beckett and Family, Andrew & Stephanie Nash, Susan Spruce, Heather Stansbury, Karen Binks, Karen Goodwin, Keryl Edwards & John Groenen, Julie Finch, James Beckett, Robyn Simmonds, Jane Hanafie and Linda Fuller. We also received many kind donations and we are grateful to Bunnings in Mornington, Tasman Meat in Rosebud and Bakers Delight in Carnegie for their fantastic assistance.
New Programs within OzChild Disability

The OzChild Disability Flexible Respite Program is currently seeking expressions of interest for a number of new programs

Saturday Recreation Groups
For 6-17 year olds and 17-25 year olds
Activities will be staffed at a 1:4 staff to client ratio; therefore attendees must be able to support themselves within a group setting. The younger group will include activities such as: Trampolining, Cinema, Ten Pin Bowling, Mini Golf, Swimming etc. The older groups will define their own activities.
Schedule: Monthly on a Saturday
Times: 9.30am to 4.30pm
Cost: $10 per day
Drop off’s and pickup’s have not been confirmed, however, the activities will run from the Casey Area

Camps
6-25 year olds
Camps will be held at various locations throughout Melbourne and surrounding areas. Each Camp will run for 3 days and 2 nights. Camps will be run for specific age groups (6-12 years, 12-15 years, 15-18 years, 18-25 years).
Cost: $50 per client
Further details to be confirmed

Midweek Social/Friendship Groups
Groups 6-17 year olds and 17-25 year olds
These groups will allow children and young adults the opportunity to meet new friends and take part in various activities of their choice.
Attendees: Monthly on a Saturday
Times: 4.30pm to 7.30pm (times may vary)
Cost: $10 per person
Transport and Locations to be confirmed

Thank you to all those families that have settled their accounts

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Graduation

Saying goodbye to our Graduating students for 2014

Daniel, Jordan & Eric