From the Principal’s Desk

Start of Year.
Welcome back! We had an interesting start to the year. I held great hopes that all the building works would be completed by the start of the school year. Unfortunately, this was not the case due to delays in the arrival of materials. However, the builders have erected temporary fences and I am assured that all will be finished soon…. In the meantime, we have access to our great new classrooms. They are working well and the students certainly deserve new classrooms after years of using old portables. The area between the portables is going to be covered in, just waiting on the timber to arrive.

Max
Much thanks to Max, the site supervisor, who has done his best to support the students and to finish as much of the work as possible before the students returned from holidays. Max has done his best to make sure students are safe by putting up temporary fencing as requested and anything else I asked of him.

Craig
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Craig Artemiou from BHA project Management who has had overall responsibility for installing our new classrooms. Craig has been willing to listen to our needs and where possible act on them. He has led the project professionally and really supported our school. Thank you Craig.

Moving
The move out of the old classes into the new classrooms was a very large task to undertake with little notice. To move all the resources and equipment out of seven rooms was huge. Much thanks to the staff, who volunteered their time, packed and moved everything.

Arriving at school.
Whilst we are still waiting for the building works to be completed, I ask for your patience as things can get hectic at the start of the year. Our current system is to lower congestion by asking parents wait at the entrance gate until a staff member meets you and takes your child to class. At the moment we have a table with the sign-in book outside but that may change depending on the weather.

New Students.
A big welcome to our new students, Taj & Troy who are our new Foundation (prep) students, Bailey W & Robert in Seniors and Joseph going into Junior / Middle class.
Student Accident Insurance, ambulance cover arrangements and private property brought to school.
A reminder to all parents and carers that neither the Department of Education & Training nor the school provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students, staff and parents. I received an official notice from the department which, in part, states:

- parents/guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance/transport and any other transport costs; and
- parents/guardians can purchase insurance policies from commercial insurers

Principals should remind parents/guardians and staff that the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

The advice goes on with:

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property students, staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding this matter please see me.

Start Time; Please note that school starts at 8:50. Please do not drop your child at the school prior to 8:50 as we do have the staff and resources to supervise students prior to this time.

Permission Forms and Student emergency forms; Thank you to all parents who have signed the numerous permission forms, student information forms and community access excursion forms. If you haven’t updated your child’s details for this year please do so as soon as possible so that we have the latest contact and emergency details for your child.

It is also pleasing to have so many parents organise a simple fortnightly payment plan with Chris Wade our Business Manager, to make it easy to pay for all the extras that are not covered in the normal education program. Please let us know if you need help with these extra expenses and we can work out a payment plan to suit you.

Relatives or friends picking up students; Please let the office know if someone other than yourself is picking up your son or daughter from school on a particular day. This can be done either via the communication book or a phone call to Karen in the office.

Special Assembly; A special Assembly was held on Friday 10th Feb to present School Badges to our School Leaders and Student Voice Representatives for 2017. The assembly was very successful with many proud parents turning up to see their child be awarded a badge. Also, Harley and Matthew and Deegan were awarded a special certificate for excellent behaviour during the school holiday program by the Australasian After Care managers. Well done, our boys!

School Council Elections; This year there are two parent vacancies for School Council. School Council provides an opportunity for parents to get involved in the running of the school and to ensure that the school is providing the very best educational opportunities it possibly can.

Hello; I know a number of organisations and individuals read our newsletter so I would just like to say hello to Jackie, the Principal at Springvale Park SDS.

Thank you.

David.
Congratulations to the 2017 Mornington SDS Student Voice Representatives:

Last Friday 10th February we held a special assembly to present our Student Leaders and Student Voice Representatives with their badges, it was lovely to see so many parents and friends at the assembly to support and join in this special moment for our students.

Our Student Voice Representatives were voted in by students represent and be a spokesperson for their class. The Student Voice Representatives meet every fortnight to discuss topical issues or ideas which have been passed onto them by their peers in order to make positive changes to their school environment. The Student Voice program piloted in 2013 and meant that our students were able to create some really positive changes and experiences for their school, such as voting to change the bell music, actively assisting to plan the school concert, planning a whole school excursion as well as helping to run school assemblies,

We are very proud of our students and are looking forward to seeing what the 2017 Student Voice team can bring to Mornington SDS this year!

Congratulations to:

Student Leaders 2017
Andrew, Joel, Frank, Robert & Jackson

Student Voice Representatives 2017
Jarod, Will, Chris, Tane, Diezel, Teleah, Anna, Matthew & Robert
This year there are two parent vacancies for School Council. School Council provides an opportunity for parents to get involved in the running of the school and to ensure that the school is providing the very best educational opportunities it possibly can.

Please find attached an information flyer for Parents regarding School Council.

If you require any further information please contact David Newport.

Nomination forms are available from the School office.
Mornington Special Developmental School

Mornington Lions Club are raising money to provide a bus to take the children that attend this school out for educational and recreational trips.

Rodney Vincent is your complete entertainer. His one man show is a feast of entertainment that caters for anyone and everyone who enjoys a good time. It is a blend of country, comedy, old time favourites, rock and roll and storytelling that cannot help but make people laugh.

When: 7pm Saturday 25th February 2017
Where: Peninsula Parkland
249 High Street Hastings
Cost: $25 includes light supper, BYO

Booking essential
Contact: Trish Kelly
0403 225 191
pkok46@gmail.com
YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
‘THE CAREERS AND WELLBEING EXPO’

On March the 2nd Peninsula Specialist College, (25 Old White Hill Road Dromana, Vic,) will be holding a Careers and Wellbeing Expo. Parents and/carers are invited to attend from 9.00am to 9.30 am and then welcome to stay for an NDIS and goal setting information session.

We will be taking our senior students to the expo between 11.00am and 11.30 am.

This is a great opportunity to ask questions and gather as much information in relation to your child’s future options. There are many changes with the NDIS and the more informed we are the better equipped we will be to support our young people whether it be for some form of employment and/or recreation opportunities as well as the opportunity to pursue their personal goals.

For further information please contact Peninsula Specialist College on 59872649 or Angela Holland/Stephanie Nash at school on 59756189