From the Principal’s Desk

Start of Year.
Welcome back! We had great start to the year. On the 27th of January all the teachers went to the city for the Department’s professional learning day on: Abilities Learning and Educational Support (ABLES). At the same time, the ES staff and I had an informative session from Incontinence Australia and engaged in professional learning that focussed on supporting and understanding our students. The whole staff spent the next day attending to OHS requirements and preparation for the students return. Then on the 29th the students returned to be greeted by, in most cases, their new teachers and classroom friends. (Also, I must take this opportunity to say a big “hello” to Donna who will know what this means).

To all staff, a warm welcome back. It was an excellent start to the year thanks to your support organisation and care.

A big welcome back to school, to all the parents and carers. I hope you all had an enjoyable break.
All of us here at our school are all very happy to be back with your children and supporting them to learn, grow and achieve.

New Staff and Students

A warm welcome to our new PE / Art teacher, Brendan Smith. Brendan comes to us with a range of experience at different schools. Currently, he is working Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. So if you see him running around (as PE teachers always run!) please say ‘hello’. We also welcome Stephen Woodroffe as an assistant in Susan’s class.

Our new students for this year are: Chloe in room 6 and Tane in room 1, and all the new students in the Eep’s program a big warm welcome from all of us!

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 or 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;
- 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 and 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.

Continued over page.

Dates to Remember
19th Feb—Swimming
24 Feb—Coffee morning
26th Feb—Swimming
4 March—Swimming
11 March—Swimming
11 March—Coffee Morning
14th March—Labour Day Holiday
18 March—Swimming
24th March—End Term 1
2.30 dismissal

Term Dates 2016
Term 1
29th January to 24th March
Term 2
11th April to 24th June
Term 3
11th July to 16th September
Term 4
3rd October to 20th December

Birthday—Diezel
**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 not have the staff or resources to supervise students prior to 8:50.

**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 today to present School Badges to our School Leaders and Student Voice Representatives for 2016, congratulations to those student leaders.

**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.

**We will be sending out information about joining the School Council soon.**

**Donations**
The Mornington Peninsula Sovereign Chapter of the Freemasons have raised $500.00 for our school, this amount was generously doubled by the Freemason’s Grand Lodge of Melbourne, amounting to a total of $1,500.00! On behalf of the whole school I would like to thank the Freemasons for their hard-work and generosity. We have included more information in this newsletter.

**Bus News!**
On behalf of our school I would like to extend a very special thank – you to Iain Hogg who through his extraordinary application of time, resources, skill and hard work has repaired our school bus to a roadworthy stage – at no cost to the school! So our bus is back on the road and we can therefore implement the swimming and community access programs, basketball etc.

The whole school thanks Iain for his generosity and support.

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A/ Principal
David.
Welcome to Room 1!

We are so excited to have started off the school year here in Room 1. All students are refreshed and ready for another big year!

Let us introduce you to the students and staff in Room 1 in 2016:

Tane

Sophie

Karen

Keryl

Diezel

Jemma

This term, we said farewell to our friend Jacob. He has moved to his new school.

We wish you all the best Jacob!
Thank you Bianca & Trish

The Stephanie Alexander Garden Program began in term 2 of this year as a trial initially involving rooms 2 & 4. During our tentative start to this program two people enabled the program seamlessly. Each Friday Bianca and Trish volunteered their time to work in the garden, to work with the students, to set up equipment and pack up. Bianca & Trish have been an inspiration and an integral part of the program. Karen & I and all the students would love to take this opportunity to thank you both sincerely.

From all the staff and students at Mornington SDS we thank the Freemasons for their kind donation.

V III Bro Steve Ruglen 33° SGIG
Em Bro Terry Fisher 32° CoM
Em Bro Barrie Hunt 32° CoM
E&P Bro Simon Browne 18°

Pictured members of the freemasons, joined by students from MSDS
Imogen, Will, Ben & Tane
Brendan Smith is joining us as the PE/Art teacher.

Brendan is organizing a footy day with St Kilda Players to come join us at school!

Stephen Woodroffe is an ES and comes to us with many years of experience and will be a welcome addition to the team working in rooms 3 & 4

Do you love to dance and perform?
Come and join the Allstars revolution!
We have limited places available in these classes:
Under 12 yrs – Brighton & Frankston
Teens – Twenties – Brighton

Ring Lisa on 0425 721 848 for more information
www.bamallstars.org.au
www.facebook.com/bamallstars

Don’t forget to check out our website for more news and information
www.morningtonsds.vic.gov.au
Dear Parents,

We are delighted to advise you that Bakers Delight Carnegie, situated at 102 Koornang Rd, Carnegie, and proudly owned by Graeme Grieve and his wife Pam, have committed to work closely with Mornington Special Development School to assist in our fund raising efforts.

**Normally you** would buy a 6 pack of Hot Cross buns for the RRP of $7.00 and Pam & Graeme would donate $2.00 back to our school.

**However...** as Pam & Graeme are good friends of Iain Hogg’s and would like to support Billy’s school they have offered to donate 50 packs to our school so we retain the full $7.00. This is a significant gesture by Graeme and Pam and we urge all families and friends to take advantage of this offer and at the same time, greatly assist in fundraising for our school.

The other benefit of course is that you will be enjoying the most delightful and freshest Hot Cross Buns you can possibly buy. The Hot Cross Buns, packed with real fruit and spices, the delicious Chocolate Hot Cross Buns and we also have “Mocha” available for your family to enjoy. They are all baked fresh daily from raw ingredients and offer superb quality at a very reasonable price.

So please help us to raise some additional funds by making a Hot Cross Bun purchase this year through our school. An order form is attached for your completion and we would be grateful if you could ensure this is returned, together with the appropriate payment by 11th March at the latest. We will advise details regarding collection of your Hot Cross Buns from the school closer to Easter.

We thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

The Fundraising Committee