**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th May</td>
<td>Parents Coffee, Mothers Day Stall</td>
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<td>8th May</td>
<td>Mothers Day, Sports Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Combined Sports Day</td>
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<td>12th May</td>
<td>Woodleigh Day</td>
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<td>2nd June</td>
<td>Parent Coffee Morning</td>
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<td>3rd June</td>
<td>Crazy Hair Day</td>
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<td>13th June</td>
<td>Queens Birthday</td>
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<td>14th June</td>
<td>Curriculum Birthday</td>
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<td>17th June</td>
<td>Parent Coffee Morning</td>
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<td>24th June</td>
<td>End of Term 2</td>
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<td>1.30 Dismissal</td>
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<td>11th July</td>
<td>Start Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th September</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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**From the Principal’s Desk**

**Principals Day.**

The department celebrated Principals Day on Friday 29. It was great fun here at school and my first day as a Principal (acting) on Principal Day. It was a bit of shock to walk into my office and find it covered in balloons, sparkles and ribbons! I could hardly find my computer. It was delightful to receive posters and cards from all the students. What a talented lot they are! Thank you to all the students and staff for the messages, cards and posters it really made my day!

**Dollars & Sense PD**

I attended a Dollars and Sense Professional Development half day with Chris Wade our Business Manager on Wednesday 27. It was a day designed to outline the basics of the financial aspects of running the school. Chris was a great help to me, helping me to understand the spreadsheets and financial implications for our school. The session presented the complexities of school finance so we are very fortunate to have Chris as our Business Manager to help us navigate through the system.

**Woodleigh School Visit**

We had a visit from four students and their teacher from Woodleigh School. The boys and girls were here to better understand our school and they spent most of their time in the Music Viva classes. Our students really enjoyed having them participate. Woodleigh supports our school in many ways and their students are always respectful and fun to have in the school. Thanks to Mira, Jackson, Elliot, Sarah and Rebecca.

**Weather and RDA**

The weather is changing and on Tuesday 3rd of May we had gale force winds in the area. In order to protect everyone’s safety I cancelled RDA for that day.

**Acting Principal**

David Newport
On Monday 25\textsuperscript{th} April two students from Mornington Special Developmental School participated in the ANZAC Day Commemorations by laying a wreath at the Mornington Dawn Service.

Congratulations to Andrew and Jarod for proudly representing our school. We would also like to thank their lovely parents for their efforts in getting them there so early.

A special assembly was held at school on Friday 29th April, so all students could remember ANZAC day.
We are seeking **PLASTIC BOTTLE TOPS**
for an art project
Please send in your clean plastic bottle tops

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**RESPITE**

**REMINDER:**
If your child is going to respite please notify the school office of the arrangements.

All bags are to be clearly named as we can often have more than one student going to respite, this will save on confusion.

Bags are to be no heavier than 7kg and no bigger than 55 x 40 cm (Carry on baggage size)

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**TARGET**

A big Thank you to Target in Mornington who donated 17 bike helmets to our school.

These helmets will help our students continue there bike education classes

From everyone at Mornington SDS

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**BLUESCOPE**

From all of the student's and staff at Mornington SDS we would like to thank **BlueScope** for supporting us in our resent fundraiser “Clothing Closet Clean Out”

Your support was greatly appreciated
As we prepare to thank our wonderful Mums (don’t forget Dad’s) and Carers on Mother’s Day 2016 - we must also remember the hard work that the students have put in at school. The students from Rooms 3 and 4 have been working very hard on their counting and cooking so far this term.

Both Harley and Jacob are showing their understanding of ‘one to one correspondence’. But of course making pizza for morning tea was a winner for Lachlan and Taiyo. But Charlie was more interested in puzzles!

We want to say Happy Mother’s Day!!!

Our Mothers Day Stall was held today, students had a wide variety of gifts to choose from. Everyone was very excited to be able to purchase something special and all gifts were wrapped and tagged ready to go home. Thank you to everyone who supported and donated gifts to the stall and helped make it the success it was.

Thank you also to the parent volunteers who manned the stall, and assisted students with their purchases.
Special school misses out

STEVEN TAYLOR
steve@mpmsms.com.au

ESTABLISHED as a “temporary” school in 1987 and left to take care of itself over the following 30 years, it’s no wonder Mornington Special Development School is dilapidated and run down.

Claims of obstacles hidden inside the walls, leaky roofs, non-downdoor toilets and unoccupied facilities don’t paint a pretty picture of the school in what’s acknowledged as being a low socio-economic part of town.

That’s not to say the care and welfare of its 33 students is neglected, it’s just, the surroundings are less than ideal for the seven staff and principal David Newport.

Despite last week’s budgeting by the state government that it will earmark $1.5 million from the budget to educate students with disabilities, and spend $68.5 million on refurbishing 29 specialist schools, the Mornington school has again been left out in the cold.

“Unfortunately, we are not on the list and no one has contacted us,” Mr Newport said. “There is no process [for updating facilities] that I know of and it is very frustrating as we want to afford our students as much dignity as possible.

“We need fit-for-purpose facilities for our 33 students and nine kindergarten-age pupils.”

Mornington MP David Morris has called on the state government to fund the “much needed relocation” of Mornington Special Developmental School to Hastings.

“The school is in a poor state, and needs to be relocated to the land set aside for it there,” he said.

“The government must have overlooked the Mornington special school. With less than 50 students, it is too often overlooked.”

It was always expected that the school would receive new buildings, and layout plans are awaiting approval at head office, but “we haven’t heard anything,” Mr Newport admitted. “I think it’s a case of being out of sight, out of mind.”

He said he would contact the Education Department and “explore alternative avenues for obtaining funds.”

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Mr Newport – who joined the school in November after 13 years as principal of Springvale Special Developmental School – was unaware of any proposed move to Hastings.

He estimated the school needed $500,000/$1 million to renovate its portals and upgrade its playgrounds in Roberson Drive.

Despite the physical neglect, he praised the compassion and capabilities of its staff. “The school is what it is,” he said.

“Because we are small we all pull together and each teacher knows each student. We provide speech therapy and physiotherapy.

“The teachers go above and beyond to provide the best in care and attention for their students.”

Mr Morris said he called on the government to fund the proposed relocation in last year’s budget – but “no funds were forthcoming”.

“This will be the second budget where the government has refused to provide funding for students in our community who need it most.”

Mr Morris said that being listed in the Victorian Building Futures Program for rebuilding and relocation to Hastings meant the school was unable to receive Building the Education Revolution funding.

“The school was offered a new possible, but, with their limited space, they could not accept it and reluctantly had to hand the money back,” he said.

“The school currently has no permanent buildings and lacks many facilities that most other schools enjoy. In 2009 they had 10 portable buildings with an average age of 30 years.

“The school has done a fantastic job with what they have. They deliver great outcomes for students, and the staff work tirelessly to ensure that students aren’t disadvantaged by their school facilities.

“It is time the government played their part.”

On the other hand, principal David Newport says Mornington Special Developmental School’s “temporary” status has become more permanent over the years. Picture: Victoria.

Bailey proudly showing his dinosaur that he constructed independently.

Well Done Bailey!
My name is Laura Greene and I am the new Victorian State Representative for Angelman Syndrome Association Australia (ASAA). The role of the ASAA is to support, inform, educate, and advocate for families affected by Angelman syndrome.

There is an amazing and supportive Angelman community in Australia and support is available through groups on Facebook, and events held throughout the year such as International Angelman Day on February 15th, fundraising events and social events.

Our National Conference is being held from 7th-8th October this year in Melbourne, followed by a family lunch on 9th October. The conference sessions will include information on seizure control, communication, literacy, setting IEP goals, financial planning, video self-modeling, disability and siblings, NDIS, and more. We are excited to present 3 keynote speakers: Professor Ingrid Scheffer, Professor Bernard Dan and Erin Sheldon.

Please see the ASAA website for more information about the upcoming conference, and for my contacts details. I would love to hear from you.

www.angelmansyndrome.org

E-Smart Newsletter May 2016

Thursday the 28th April 2016 was the 20th anniversary of the tragedy at Port Arthur. 35 people lost their lives 28 were injured. Two little girls Alannah and Madeline and their mother were amongst those innocent victims on that fateful day. From this tragedy the Madeline and Alanna foundation came to be. The basic goal of the foundation is to create a caring and safe Australia where all children are safe from violence this includes being safe not only at home, at school, in the community but also online.

The Foundation supports and endorses the e Smart program which, proudly, Mornington SDS is a registered as an e Smart school. This is an ongoing commitment for staff students and parents to promote a culture of safety and respect at home at school and in the broader community. Your input and support is both valued and imperative to keep our young people safe and happy.

Our children and young adults are very computer savvy, however they are still very vulnerable and it is ultimately up to us as parents and educators to be both vigilant and supportive.

Many thanks for your ongoing support, Angela Holland, e Smart coordinator.