Respect, Responsibility, Success

Dates for your Diary

**February**
- 2nd — P&F Meeting 7:30pm
- 9th — Governing Council Meeting
- 26th — Riverland SAPSASA Swimming

**March**
- 4th — Clean Up Day 4 Schools
- 7th-8th — Year 6 & 7 Aquatics
- 21st — Harmony Day
- 23rd — Blind Sports Visit
- 25th — Good Friday
- 28th — Easter Monday

**April**
- 1st — Riverland SAPSASA Cross Country
- 13th — Riverland SAPSASA Netball/Football
- 15th — End of Term One

WELCOME
Welcome back students and families to the 2016 school year. I hope that the holiday break was time well spent relaxing with family and friends. School staff has spent the last couple of weeks preparing for the upcoming year. Some of this work has included organising classroom spaces, developing learning plans, sharing student information and preparing for upcoming class and school events. These events are listed in the diary dates section of our school newsletter.

A date for Parent Information Night will be confirmed this week. Information about the night will follow. This is a great opportunity for families to come into the school, visit classrooms and meet with teachers.

NEW STAFF AND STUDENTS
Yesterday we welcomed 33 new students and 2 new staff to Monash Primary School. Our current school enrolment is 212. We look forward to our new students enjoying their time at Monash Primary and making the most of opportunities which come their way.

NEW FAMILIES
We welcome to Monash Primary for the very first time new students:
- Year 2 — Lexie E, Ryan H, Paris S (Ms Thompson’s class)
- Year 5 — Cameron H (Miss Kitson’s class)
- Year 6 — Rynan M, Nackider P (Mr Thiele’s class)
- Year 6 — Dan W (Mr Trobbiani’s class)

NEW STAFF
- Jimmy Vlassopoulos — Yr 4/5 teacher (Fridays)
- Samara Phillips — SSO (Mon – Fri)

2016 CLASSES
- R/1 – Kylie Scholz
- R/1 - Natalie Brock
- 2/3 – Kellie Kunoth
- 2/3 – Julie Thompson
- 3/4 – Helen Neumann/Karen Trobbiani
- 4/5 – Alana Kitson/Jimmy Vlassopoulos
- 5/6 – Matthew Thiele
- 6/7 – John Trobbiani
- R-7 Art – Katie Walters
- R-7 PE – Brian Finn
- R-7 Music – Cindy Ridley
- School Counsellor – Marilyn Castle
- Teaching and Learning Coordinator – Alana Kitson
- Pastoral Care Worker – Erin Harrald

SKOOLBAG
Skoolbag is a free iPhone and Android communication app that provides parents with a convenient way to receive school notifications. Some of its uses include alerts, news, reminders, permission notes and information pages. It was trialled with a few families at the end of last year and received some very positive feedback. This app is now available for all families to download. Instructions for the download process are attached to this newsletter.

So that we can have accurate records of who is using this communication method we ask that all users please email the school via the app when successfully downloaded. Please make sure that you include your family name in the subject line when doing so.

Feel free to contact Jenni or Jane in the front office if you would like further information.
ATTENDANCE/LATE ARRIVALS

Regular attendance at school contributes significantly to learning success and as such it is something that we continually monitor and promote. We are continually looking to maximise every student’s attendance rate and rely on the support of our families to make this happen. A review of our 2015 attendance data highlighted a significant number of unexplained absences. Parents are asked to notify the school whenever your child is going to be absent so that they can be accounted for. Similarly any student that is a late arrival needs to go via the front office. This allows us to update our attendance records so that they reflect who is on school grounds at any one time.

Please be aware that school staff have a responsibility to contact families whenever a student is absent for 3 consecutive days. Thank you for your support and cooperation with these matters.

NEW BUILDING

Many of you would have noticed the removal of Room 8 upon returning to school. The site is now fully prepared and the construction of our new dual classroom unit is underway. At this point we don’t have a firm delivery date but are expecting it sometime towards the end of the term. Whilst it means we have a bit of a squeeze for spaces at the moment we are all looking forward to its arrival and the opportunities it will provide us to develop classroom and student support spaces. More news will be passed on in future newsletter editions.

SWIMMING

Planned swimming lessons for next week have been postponed due to instructor unavailability. We are currently in negotiations with the swimming centre about rescheduling our lessons. Families will be advised as soon as we have further information.

Brenton Chapman

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR / INTERVENTION FOCUS TEACHER

I am delighted to again have the privilege of working in the roles of Counsellor and Intervention Focus Teacher throughout 2016. The role of School Counsellor includes working collaborative-ly with school staff, students and community with a focus of promoting Wellbeing. I work in the school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with a base in the Meeting Room. I envisage being actively engaged in the yard and classrooms much of the time.

My Counsellor role may include:

- Following up student interests and assisting in building self esteem.
- Team teaching with class teachers to promote student well being.

Talking with parents about ways to build their child’s successful learning.

Collaborating with SRC and KidsMatter team to promote fun raising and fundraising activities in the school. Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday, so our fun raising will be Pancake orders available for collection at recess time.

The Role of Intervention Focus Teacher is complementary to the Counsellor role as it includes working with students, staff and school community.

Please feel welcome to approach me and we can chat or make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Marilyn Castle

MESSAGE FROM ERIN

Hi everyone!

Welcome back to a wonderful year at Monash Primary School. I hope you had a refreshing break. A special welcome to all our students and families new to the school this year. It’s great to have you with us! My days this year are on Wednesday afternoons and Fridays all day. You may have noticed that room 8 (where I used to work from) has been knocked down over the holidays. That means things will be a little different this year. Breakfast Club will continue on Friday mornings. If you would like to help out with this, please come and see me. The lunchtime craft activities will now be run from the art room. I will be working with the year 6/7’s again this year with the special Friday lunches, and we will be getting creative and innovative, with no room 8 kitchen. So stay tuned for that! Looking forward to a great year at Monash. Please come and see me if you would like some support or assistance.

Best wishes,

Erin Harrald
Pastoral Care Worker

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BERRI JUNIOR NETBALL AGM

Tuesday 16th Feb 7pm at the Big River Tavern. Enquiries to berrijuniornetball@gmail.com. All interested parents are encouraged to attend.

BERRI GREEK SCHOOL NEWS 2016

Enrolment will be this Thursday 4th February from 6-7pm at the Glossop Primary School site. Normal lessons will commence the following Thursday 11th February from 5.30pm till 8pm. For further info phone Athina on 0417821310.

SHROVE TUESDAY / PANCAKE DAY

Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Tuesday. This moveable festival is determined by Easter and is a time observed by many Christians, as they begin the fast of Lent when eating many foods are abstained from. Pancakes may be ordered on the return slip, with 2 pancakes for 50cents. If ordering please indicate your child’s name, class and preferred spread. **Please indicate if your child’s dietary needs excludes eggs or milk and this will be catered for.**

Child’s Name ___________________________
Class ______________________

First pancake with the following spread
☐ plain ☐ buttered ☐ lemon & sugar ☐ peanut paste ☐ maple syrup ☐ Ice-cream ☐ Ice-cream & maple syrup

Second pancake with the following spread
☐ plain ☐ buttered ☐ lemon & sugar ☐ peanut paste ☐ maple syrup ☐ Ice-cream ☐ Ice-cream & maple syrup