



The Mahogany Times

Issue 1, 9th February 2018

Welcome back 2018

It is always an exciting time to start a new school year with lots of enthusiasm and bright eager students. This year is no exception with students returning ready and eager to learn. Our Foundation class has settled in well and they are going to have a fabulous year with Ms Ramesh.

We have some new faces around the school this year and they will be introduced over the next few weeks in the newsletter or on the school website.



We are running our Rigour and Routine program for the first 2 weeks of school and this is important for students to learn how each day is structured and how classes in Literacy, Numeracy and Oral Language will run throughout the year.



Students are expected to be on time each day and attendance at school every day is critically important for every child. We had a reduction in absence data last year but we are still well short of the Department goals. They would like the average to be around 13 day's absence for each student each year. Last year we were over 17 days. Each day is a significant learning opportunity. Don't be late or absent is the strong message we are sending out at the start of the year.

EVERY DAY COUNTS



Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Partners in Learning
COMMUNITY



Frankston North Education Plan

There has been some news on that front over the holidays as there has been an appointment made of Executive Principals and 2 leading teachers to support the work of Education in Frankston North. This is a new concept for the Education Department and we will be one of the areas that will be putting this to the test. It is all about providing the best possible learning outcomes for the community of Frankston North. It is an exciting development.

Communication

We have a number of ways to communicate what is going on in the school and this newsletter is one. We have a Facebook page and a website which has a calendar of events attached to it. Staff are available to meet up both casually and with appointments if something more needs to be discussed.



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www.mahoganyrise.vic.edu.au
www.facebook.com/MahoganyRisePrimarySchool

School Council Nominations

Nomination forms can be collected from the front office and must be lodged by 19th February. We require 4 parent members to join School Council.

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students

Do I need special experience to be on school council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future. What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.



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|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Joshua J | Jorden | Annabelle |
| Tarquin W | Angel | Isla |
| Liam P | Logan C | Josh L |
| Hailey N | Skyelah | Isiah |
| Ghoku | Rihanna | Nevaeh |
| Jacky | Rowan | Izzy |
| Hayley | Kade | Paris |
| Kaitlyn | | |

Welcome to 4/5R!

Introducing you to two of our new staff – Jeanette Ryan (Classroom Teacher) and Tricia Gardner (Education Support). Mrs Ryan is excited to be teaching at Mahogany Rise and lives by the motto “There’s nothing you can’t teach in a song and you can never have too many picture books!”

Some of you may recognise Tricia’s face - she is returning to Mahogany Rise after already working with us from 2010 to 2015.

Feel free to say “Hi” and introduce yourselves when you see Mrs Ryan and Tricia around.



Vegetable Garden Update

Our vegie garden is going strong, thanks to Tim, Wilson and friends for keeping it watered over the holidays. The students have been enjoying the fresh produce in their lunches and snacks. We are currently seeking volunteers to water the garden over summer,



possibly every morning. If you are available for 30 minutes or so after dropping of your child please speak to Amy or Louise in the office, or Glenn if you see him out in the yard.

Thank you to the following organisations for supporting our lunch program:



Welcome to our 2018 Prep students

Our Prep students have enjoyed their first two weeks at Mahogany Rise. In their art lesson this week they had fun learning about lines, and how to use lines to make pictures.



“What to expect in the first fortnight of prep” is a guest post from Dr Rachell Kingsbury – Guidance Counsellor (Clin. Psych & Clin. Neuropsych MAPS) and mum of two boys. For the full article visit <https://www.familiesmagazine.com.au/expect-first-fortnight-prep-guide-parents/>

THE FIRST FORTNIGHT OF PREP – TIPS FROM AN EXPERT

Congratulations to all the Parents that have just survived their first Prep week!

Some Preppies won't miss a beat and will fly into their new year without a tear, but for the vast majority, it is really normal to experience and elicit some degree of apprehension. To help with Parent expectations, below are some of the typical things we see across our Prep Community in the first fortnight.

EMOTIONS

Expect your child to be EMOTIONAL (excited, apprehensive, sad, fearful, worried, etc.). School presents ENORMOUS change, and one that you simply cannot over prepare your child for. Talk about, welcome, and support all those little feelings as completely normal responses to a very big change. It would be an anomaly for most children to breeze through this transition. So also talk about how every other child in their class will probably be feeling just the same as your child feels.

EXHAUSTION

Expect your child to be EXHAUSTED. There is mammoth learning outside of just the ABCs. Your child is learning to function in a much more complex social arrangement, learning a whole new Teacher and environment, learning to sit still and listen for extended time periods, learning to do what they're told, learning advanced sharing and turn taking skills, learning advanced play skills, etc., etc., etc. All of this learning typically produces a tired brain and tired child. They will rapidly absorb this new routine in the coming weeks and the tiredness is likely to fade.

BEHAVIOUR

Expect your child to be BEHAVIOURAL AT PICK UP. They have used up all of their emotional cup during the day, and they're fully depleted by the time they see you. This is a very common occurrence with Parents frequently asking how their child can be an “angel” in the classroom, but difficult at home. Come to pick up prepared for a really big, undistracted hug and acknowledge how hard that distance has been and how well

they did without your and how happy you are to be picking them up. This helps to reconnect their primary attachment and refills their emotional resilience until the next drop off.

TEARS

Expect MORE TEARS in the next fortnight. Somewhere in the next fortnight, your child is going to realise that school isn't just a fun, new thing – but a permanent, sometimes tricky thing that can be pretty stressful at times, and they'll understandably maybe balk at this. I always remember my nephew starting school and in the second week his entire class cried for the entire day!

REGRESSION

Really normal for stress and anxiety in children to produce the same stress responses as it does in adults. This can include sleeplessness, disrupted routines, irritability, poor appetite, bed wetting or toilet issues (that's why we pack spares in Preppies), hyperorality (chewing clothing, fingers, etc.), clinginess to mum and dad, etc. All very normal transition responses as children typically externalise their worries into behaviours. This is unlikely to persist, but if it does please don't hesitate to chat to your Guidance Counsellor.

THE FIRST FORTNIGHT OF PREP – EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Mostly, I wanted to say – all of these responses are really NORMAL. So please, BREATHE: your Preppie is doing great and you're doing great too, Parents! It is RARE for any of this to persist, but from a school-perspective, this is our common first fortnight of new Preppies and behind the scenes of most schools, we're working hard to help this transition go as smoothly as possible also.

My main TIP (if it's possible): is to arrive at pick up with an undistracted hug, lots of GOOD food, water, and go straight from school to an unstructured, outside play environment (i.e., park, playground) and let them UNWIND and have your full attention for 20-minutes (it doesn't have to be a long play).



Get involved in the School Banking program.

Mahogany Rise Primary School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students.

School Banking is a fun, interactive and engaging way for young Australians to learn about money and develop good savings habits. Children who deposit money into their Youthsaver account through School Banking earn Dollarmites tokens, which they can save up and redeem for exciting rewards.



School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. Our school receives a Regular Savers Contribution of \$5 for every 10 deposits processed per student as well as an Annual Contribution which is based on the number of students who made at least one School Banking deposit in the prior year.

Getting involved in School Banking is easy!

All you need to get involved in the School Banking program is a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account. You can open an account for your child in one of two ways:

1. Online

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking and click on the link to open a Youthsaver account.

2. In branch

Visit a Commonwealth Bank branch with identification for yourself and your child, like a driver's licence and birth certificate.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week on School Banking day using their Dollarmites deposit wallet.

School Banking day is Wednesday. Each week you need to hand in your completed deposit book to the office or your classroom teacher first thing in the morning.

If you would like to know more about School Banking, please ask for a 2018 School Banking program information pack from the school office or visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Coles Sports for Schools

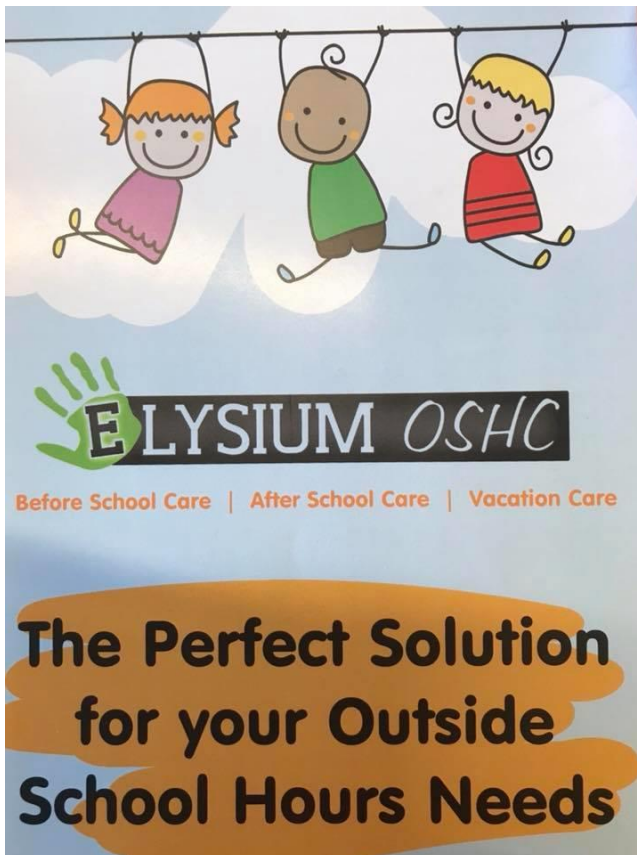
Mahogany Rise is participating in the Coles Sports promotion in 2018. Vouchers can be collected from any Coles store when \$10 or more is spent on your shopping and placed in the collection box at the office.





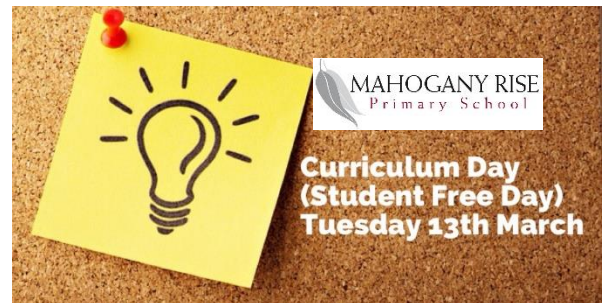
2018 School Captains

Congratulations to our school captains who were introduced at assembly on Monday. There will be a formal badge ceremony in the coming weeks.



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MAHOGANY RISE
Primary School

**Curriculum Day
(Student Free Day)
Tuesday 13th March**