We develop a love of learning

PRINCIPAL’S PERSPECTIVE

Welcome back to the final term for 2015! We hope you found time to relax and enjoy a break from the school routine. We have had an exciting start to the term with lots of challenging learning taking place both inside and outside of the classroom. This week, teachers and students from our sister school in Beijing arrived at Milgate, our Year 1 students went on an excursion exploring the goods and services provided at Tunstall Square, Year 2 students headed off to Oasis adventure camp in Mt Evelyn and our Foundation students excitedly welcomed chickens to their learning area as part of their inquiry into living things. It has certainly already been a busy start and we look forward to the rest of the term ahead.

CHINESE SISTER SCHOOL VISIT

Experimental Primary School of Beijing Normal University (EPSBNU)

On Monday we welcomed teachers and students from our sister school in Beijing to Milgate Primary School. The purpose of the exchange visit is to share, experience and learn about education and teaching practices while building positive international relationships. Students spent the week in Year 5 and 6 classrooms exploring what education and learning is like in Australia and at Milgate. They formed positive relationships with Milgate students and also shared with them what school is like at EPSBNU. The Chinese students had prepared digital presentations about various aspects of Chinese culture which were excellent. They presented these to the students in the classes they have been with throughout the week which was also a great learning experience for the Milgate students.

The EPSBNU teachers observed many lessons across a range of subject areas and year levels including our local Catjump Kindergarten and are excited to take back many ideas with them.

Some of our students were lucky enough to learn Tai Chi from one of the Chinese teachers who is the Beijing champion of Tai Chi and Kung Fu and some other lucky students were treated to paper cutting activities. On Thursday, all EPSBNU teachers and students along with Ms Mierisch, Ms Gooding, Ms Nixon and one of our Chinese parents (interpreter) went to Healesville Sanctuary to experience some Australian wildlife and a BBQ lunch. Everyone enjoyed seeing the animals up close and were lucky enough to see very active koalas after feeding time.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the families who hosted the Chinese students for 3 nights. It is such a rewarding experience for both the students and the host families and we are very grateful for the time and effort families have dedicated. The students came to school happy and excited to share their experiences and were very sad to say goodbye. Enormous thanks also to all the parents who provided delicious food for the teachers and students and to the parents who worked hard as interpreters throughout the week. Without the help of our fantastic parents, these programs would not be possible.

Yours sincerely,
Debbie Mierisch | Principal
Karlie Gooding | Assistant Principal

DIARY DATES | Next Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12 Oct</td>
<td>District Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 13 Oct</td>
<td>YEAR2 Parent iPad Info Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 15 Oct</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16 Oct</td>
<td>YEAR 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 16 Oct</td>
<td>Young Leaders Sustainability Conference</td>
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REMINDERS

SUNSMART AND HATS

Milgate is a Sunsmart school and all students are expected to wear hats for all outdoor activities during Term 4 and Term 1 each year to protect their skin from sun damage.

2016 AT MILGATE

If your family is travelling overseas and your child won’t be in attendance at Milgate at the start of the school year in 2016, please notify the Office either by email milgate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or by writing a note. We require the student’s full name, current grade and last day at Milgate [also the returning date if you will be away for an extended period].

If your family is moving interstate or overseas and your child will be attending another school, please notify the Office as soon as possible with your child’s full name, current grade, last day at Milgate and the name of the school they will be attending.

LATE ARRIVALS [after 9am bell]

Students must report to the Office to be signed in by an Office staff member.

EARLY DEPARTURES

Parents are required to report to the Office BEFORE collecting your child and have an Office staff member record the early departure.
CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2016 CLASSES

When developing individual classes each year, teachers consider a number of factors including academic ability, special skills and talents, social competencies, gender, students who work well together, those who may not work well together and friendship groupings. While the students are consulted about current friendships, it is only one of the criteria considered because building new relationships is also part of our education process and an important skill for students to develop. The placement of students for the coming year is a complex process where teachers put great thought and sensitivity into their planning. They discuss, reflect and review their decisions over a period of time.

If students have any learning or social needs to be considered when placing them in classes for 2016, parents can write a letter addressed to the Principal stating their needs and requests for consideration. If parents have written requests in previous years, we do not retain these as students’ needs and friendships change from year to year. If the consideration from a previous year is still important, a new letter should be written. Parents are not able to request specific teachers. The closing date for these considerations is Friday 6 November. Any requests received after this date are not able to be considered.

Staffing, school structure and class locations are currently being planned. All of these aspects are planned and allocated according to educational, learning and student needs. In 2016 there will be no multi-age / composite classes.

COMPASS

Parent Portal

We have now commenced using Compass for:

- Excursion approvals
- Newsletters
- Parent approvals for absences [includes entering your child's absences]

We are learning together, so if you are interested in attending a parent information session please express your interest via email to milgate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

We are currently experiencing some technical issues with the Excursion Consent for parents, please be assured that we have notified Compass and are working on resolving the issue as quickly as possible. We will notify parents once the online consent is functional and we thank you for your understanding.

MILGATE YEARBOOK

Within our 2015 Milgate PS Yearbook we are offering local businesses an opportunity to purchase an advertising space to promote their business.

Last year we sold and distributed over 350 copies of our 2014 Yearbook to the families of Milgate PS, local preschools and the wider Manningham community. Our yearbook is of the highest quality and it will be professionally produced and printed in a glossy magazine style. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain exposure for your local business and support our wonderful school.

Price Range for Advertising:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Full Page</th>
<th>Half page</th>
<th>Quarter Page</th>
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<tr>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$75</td>
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If you are interested in advertising your business in the 2015 Milgate PS Yearbook please fill out the return slip below or email Milgate PS at milgate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au by Friday 23 October.

MILGATE COMMUNITY BASKETBALL

Volunteer/s Required ASAP

Many of our students play in Milgate Community Basketball teams and it’s a great way to encourage friendships and being active. However we need one, or preferably two, parent volunteers to co-ordinate the team registrations and organisation. The teams can only play if there is a Co-ordinator, so please consider putting up your hand for this role. Please contact the Office if you’re interested or want to know more.

WALK TO SCHOOL

During October each year VicHealth supports the initiative of encouraging students Australia wide to spend as much time as possible walking to and from school. We would like to see as many students at Milgate PS walking or travelling actively to and from school during October.

To find out more information about Walk to School click on the following link: www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au or ‘Like’ the Walk to School Facebook Page.

We are having an Active Travel/Healthy Breakfast Day at Milgate PS on Tuesday 27 October. Please lock this date into your calendar, as this is a fantastic community event at Milgate.

LOST PROPERTY & SECONDHAND UNIFORM

Volunteers Required

We require 2 - 4 parent volunteers to assist with our Lost Property or Secondhand Uniform sales. If you have some time available each month to assist and are interested please contact our School Office.
SCHOOL NEWS

MILGATE MASTERMIND TRIVIA NIGHT
Saturday 24th October 7.00pm | School Stadium
Tickets on sale now. $20 per seat or gather 10 friends and pay only $180 per table. Every ticket order received by Friday 16th October will get a mystery voucher!
Get your smarts together and come along for a night of FUN! BYO food and drinks. Don’t worry if you don’t know all of the answers, you can buy clues.
This promises to be a great school community event and an excellent school fundraiser. We have some fantastic items to auction on the night. Like our Facebook page to have a sneak peek and get all of the latest news https://www.facebook.com/milgatepf

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
We are calling on all local businesses to donate goods, vouchers for services or sponsor this event to make it a great school fundraiser. Donations could include unwanted gifts in brand new boxed condition, stock write-downs and vouchers for services. If you can help us, please send us an email at milgate.pf@gmail.com. All money raised will go towards upgrading and improving school facilities and learning spaces.
We would like to thank the following businesses for their sponsorship:

Fletchers Real Estate, East Doncaster
Caring Dental Group
Sweet Smile Dental
P&D Thompson Accountants
BurnsRED
Hands On Physiotherapy.

RSPCA CUP CAKE DAY
Some students in Year 5 organised a Cup Cake fundraiser to raise money and awareness for RSPCA. Congratulations to Diya, Sophie, Zoe and Athena for organizing this, some of the girls met with Dr. Liz Walker, the CEO of RSPCA during the holidays.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD
Any relevant material is posted on our noticeboard [located outside the Art room] as a service to our school community. Recent articles include:

- Walk to School | Month of October [www.facebook.com/groups/ManninghamActiveKids]
- Manningham City Council has created a video explaining and encouraging kids to get active, checkout the video here https://youtu.be/7cqaM9VFjHQ
- String of Hope Festival | Mental Health Week | 10 October
- Parenting Teens Who Worry Too Much | Tue 10 Nov

SCHOOL BANKING
Rewards Update
Following the decision last month to recall the Cosmic Light Beam Torch due to a potential safety issue, a decision has been made to also withdraw the upcoming Lunar Light Band reward. To avoid disappointment there is a new reward, Galaxy Glider, available for redemption in Term 4 while stocks last. Once students have collected 10 tokens, they can simply include a note, along with their 10 tokens in their deposit wallet on banking day. Don’t forget the Outer Space Savers Money Box is also available in Term 4.