PRINCIPAL’S PERSPECTIVE

This will be our last newsletter for the term as next week is a short week. Thank you to all staff, students and parents for a very successful term of learning at Milgate PS. We wish everyone a happy Easter and an enjoyable and relaxing holiday time.

WELCOME

Next week we welcome our new Business Manager, Denise Shelton, to Milgate PS. We say farewell and thank you to Shirley Pettitt who has very competently fulfilled this role during Term 1. We appreciate her coming in to assist us while we were in the process of appointing a new Business Manager and thank her for all her work at Milgate.

MILGATE CHOIR SINGS AT HARMONY DAY

Next Wednesday night the Milgate PS Choir will be singing at the Manningham Harmony Day concert and celebration at 7pm at the Manningham Council Centre. They are fortunate to be invited to perform as there are only a few schools selected to perform each year. This is a great opportunity for them to perform with an audience and they have been practising over the last few weeks for the concert. Congratulations to Jenny Ferris (Performing Arts teacher) and all our students in the choir.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Early Years Learning – Reggio Emilia

During the school holidays several staff are taking part in extended professional learning. Carly Jones and Julie Parker (Foundation teachers) will be going to Reggio Emilia (Italy) to a professional learning program about the Reggio Emilia approach to learning for young children. They will then be able to apply the learning to enhance the Foundation program at Milgate PS. We look forward to learning from them when they return.

The city Reggio Emilia in Italy is recognized worldwide for its innovative approach to education: the program’s name comes from the city itself.

The Reggio Emilia philosophy is based upon the following set of principles:

- Children must have some control over the direction of their learning;
- Children must be able to learn through experiences of touching, moving, listening, and observing;
- Children have a relationship with other children and with material items in the world they must be allowed to explore;
- Children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves.

The Reggio Emilia approach to teaching young children puts the natural development of children, as well as the close relationships that they share with their environment, at the center of its philosophy.

Positive Education

In the second week of the school holidays Claire Harvey-Beavis (Student Wellbeing Leader) and Debbie Mierisch will be attending a 4 day residential course at Geelong Grammar on Positive Education. Geelong Grammar is well renowned for its Positive Education programs and has been implementing it as part of the curriculum for all students (F - Year 12) for 10 years. This will be a great opportunity for us to learn more about positive education and ideas for implementing it at Milgate PS. It is a whole school approach and includes: Gratitude, Mindfulness, Growth Mindset, Character Strengths, etc. This is one of our major areas of focus for 2016.

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

DIARY DATES | Next Week

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UPCOMING DATES

Fri 13 May CURRICULUM DAY
Full calendar details available in Compass.

REMIINDERS

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 have an Office staff member record the early departure BEFORE collecting your child.

9842 7744
milgate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
COMMUNITY PICNIC NIGHT | Tuesday 22 March

Our annual Community Picnic Night is held on the school oval from 5 – 7pm. This year at 5:45pm we will have a community drumming session that will involve everyone playing drums or percussion instruments together while having lots of fun. So come along and join in together with others from our school community. Parents, students and families are invited to come along and bring your chairs, rugs and a picnic. There will also be a sausage sizzle where BBQ sausages can be purchased.

TRAFFIC Around the school at pick-up & drop-off

We have had many complaints from parents and neighbours in regard to traffic, parking and drivers not obeying parking signs and traffic rules around the school at drop-off and pick-up times. Manningham Council has been contacted by the school and parents in regard to this. The parking inspectors have been around and some drivers have been fined for illegal parking. The police have also been contacted and will periodically do patrols. The issues are happening in both Landscape Drive and Serpell Road.

The following practices are illegal:
- Parking in marked areas that are ONLY for drop off / pick up – they are marked – NO Parking between school drop off and pick up times. You cannot leave your car and come into the school when stopping in these areas.
- Parking opposite double or solid single white lines and doing U turns across these lines.
- Double parking on the road and allowing your children to get into or out of the car while double parked.
- Parking too close to traffic islands or roundabouts and blocking the traffic flow.
- Parking across residents’ driveways

For the safety and consideration of everyone, we ask that our school community abides by the traffic and parking rules. This will contribute to everyone keeping safe. Thank you for your assistance.

JUNIOR SCHOOL COUNCIL | Free Dress Day

Tuesday 22 March

This term, the Junior School Council are proud to support the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. For a gold coin donation, come to school in free dress with your favourite soft toy. Please support this great cause!

MINDFULNESS

Over the past year Milgate students have been practicing mindfulness. Mindfulness is the practice of being in the present, not feeling anxious about the future and worrying about the past.

According to Dr. Kirk Strosahl and Dr. Patricia Robinson, “research indicates that brain training involving mindfulness practices can strengthen areas of the brain responsible for attention, emotional control, and problem solving… There is even emerging evidence that mindfulness-based brain training produces permanent structural changes in the brain.”

The benefits of mindfulness training for students include: greater concentration, reduction in anxiety, improvement in classroom participation and enhances social and emotional learning.

Benefits outside of the classroom include: better sleep, decreased depression risk and increased self-awareness, experiencing more calm and developing self-acceptance and self-compassion.

Some useful resources:
- Smiling Mind – App
- www.freemindfulness.org
- The Mindfulness App (cost involved)
- Headspace (cost involved)

LAST DAY - TERM 1
Thursday 24 March
Dismissal at 2.30pm

Parents that will be on holidays before the end of term are requested to enter the upcoming absence in Compass.
SCHOOL COUNCIL
The first meeting of the new school council was held on Tuesday night. At the AGM the office bearers were elected:
President: Simon Mosley
Vice President: Jasmine Tragas
Treasurer: Geoff Elletson
Congratulations to these school councillors. The other members of the council are:
Staff: Fiona Bashford, Emma Ketteridge, Karlie Gooding, Debbie Mierisch
Parents: Simon Mosley, Jasmine Tragas, Geoff Elletson, Glenda Thomas, Gordon Lum, Mark McNamara, Patrick Ow, Niem Tri
P&F Rep: Melinda Parcell
We look forward to working together and making decisions to maximise the learning for our students.

CAMP AUSTRALIA
Before and After School Care
HOLIDAY CLUB is fast approaching! Information about our holiday club is on our sign in desk in the foyer of the stadium, come by and grab a flyer! You can also go to the Camp Australia website or call the customer service team on 1300 105 343. We have some great excursions these holidays, we are going to see Zootopia at the Cinemas and visiting the Super Z play centre too! It’s going to be great fun!
To see our full program follow the link here. For bookings just go to our website: www.campaustalia.com.au.
Melissa

EXCITING CANTEEN NEWS!
Starting in Term 2, The Ginger Snap will be offering online ordering for families at Milgate. With no more scrambling for change and paper bags, families will be able to set up one account and order for individual students, for multiple days in one transaction - you will even be able to place advance orders for the entire term if you wish!
The system can work as a tab top-up where families add money to their account and draw down on the funds as they use them, or order and pay for individual transactions as you go – the choice will be yours. Initially we will continue to accept cash and paper bag orders while we implement the system, but hope to switch to 100% online ordering as the term progresses. Cash window sales for snacks and drinks during recess and lunchtimes will continue to be offered.
Register online at: www.myschoolconnect.com.au/tuckshop/thegingersnap

CURRICULUM DAYS
Term 2 | Friday 13 May
Term 3 | Wednesday 13 July
Both these days are pupil free days, so no school for students on these days.

HARMONY DAY CHOIR
| Wednesday 23 March
Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster 7-9pm. Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity. You are invited to an evening of celebration. RSVP to Dot Haynes 0425 718 937. All welcome

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:
- Ajani Multicultural Festival | Sat 19 Mar 12 - 4pm
- OLOP Community Fete | Sun 20 Mar 11am - 4pm
- Campfire & Cricket Night | Fri 18 Mar 6 - 7.30pm
- Sporting Clubs - Netball, Dance, Basketball, AFL / Auskick, Soccer, etc.
- Blackburn High School | High Achiever’s Program
- Developing Resilience in Girls | Wed 23 Mar
- Holiday Programs – Basketball, Netball, Football, Kelly Sports, MCC Nature Play Autumn program
- FREE Sports Coaching – Yrs 3 & 4 – Netball, Soccer, Hockey or Basketball

EASTER BONNET PARADE & RAFFLE
Thursday 24 March | 12noon in Stadium
Students are invited to design and make their own Easter Bonnet for our Annual Easter Bonnet Parade. There will be small chocolate prizes awarded for the best hats [one girl and one boy] in each year level. Parents are welcome to attend.
Return your raffle tickets and $5 now to be in the draw to win one of three fabulous hampers. The winners will be drawn on Thursday 24 March at the Easter Bonnet Parade.

HARMONY DAY
Come along to our Harmony Day celebration on Mon 21st Mar at 9am in the Staff Room, where you can share traditions from your home country and learn more about Australian traditions.
Please RSVP to milgate.pf@gmail.com and bring a plate of food to share.
Have FUN while learning SCIENCE, ENGINEERING & MATH!

• Build uniquely designed, motorised Lego® models!
• Discover science and engineering principles in an engaging, creative way!

Enrol Online for Term 2!

Young Engineers Club
@ Milgate Primary School
Thursday, 3:45 - 5:00 pm
(Grades 1-6, $198 / term)

ENROL YOUR CHILD TODAY!
www.iemelbourne.young-engineers.com.au

For more information, contact 0455 029 787
or e-mail: iemelbourne@young-engineers.com.au

Book your Free Trial!