**President’s Report**

**Council Annual Report**
Thank you to all those who attended the Annual Reporting Meeting of the Port Melbourne Primary School Council. Peter Martin, as Returning Officer, declared Annette Maloney, Thea Kogler and Paul Spottiswood elected as Parent members of Council and Kym Hall and Neil Scott elected as DET members of Council. The Annual Report was presented and accepted. A copy of the report will be available on the school’s website. The meeting acknowledged the efforts of our retiring Councillors, Michele Williams, Anna Heerey and Rohan Cresp.

**Council Office Bearers 2016**
At its first meeting, the 2016 Council elected the following office bearers:
- President: Annette Maloney
- Vice President: Paul Perrett
- Treasurer: Dave Roberts
- **Convenors**
  - Education: Kym Hall
  - Before & After Care: Paul Spottiswood
  - Buildings & Grounds: Simon Magasanik
  - Finance: Dave Roberts
  - Public Relations: Annette Maloney
  - Local Safety/Community Liaison: Rohan Cresp
  - Grants: Sarah Tyo

Council co-opted outgoing Councillor, Rohan Cresp, back on to Council as a Community Rep. and the PFA will nominate a PFA rep on Council at next week’s AGM.

**Council Meeting Dates**
- **School Council:** 6.30 pm on Tuesday April 19, Tuesday May 17 and Tuesday June 21.
- **Council Subcommittees**
  - **Buildings & Grounds** 5.30pm on Tuesday April 12, Tuesday May 10 and Tuesday June 14
  - **Education:** 5.30pm on Tuesday April 12, Tuesday May 10 and Tuesday June 14

Other Subcommittee meetings will be held as required.

**Pupil Free Days**
Council has approved **Friday 5th August** and **Friday 28th October** as Pupil Free Days so that staff can work on implementing the new Victorian Curriculum in 2017. Please note these dates in your diaries.

Camp Australia will run a long day program on both Fridays to cater for students who cannot be looked after at home.

**Family Fun Run Thanks**
Thank-you to the many PMPS community members who supported last Friday’s Family Fun Run. Almost $2,000 has been raised so far the students and their families who paraded around Murphy Reserve resplendent in House Colours. You have until the end of term to return sponsorship monies, after which we will announce the winning house.

Thank-you to the PFA and all their helpers for the work that went in to making the day so successful.

**Working Bee Sunday March 20th**
If you can assist for an hour or so between 10am and 2pm on Sunday 20th March, please join our Buildings & Grounds committee members as they improve our grounds. It also a great way to meet other members of our school community. A full list of tasks will be published in next week’s newsletter.

**Fine Tuning our Parent Payments**
Our Finance Committee is investigating how we can improve our parent payments procedures, with, for example, making better use of the QKr! and Konnective apps. We are also investigating if we can arrange for digital signatures for consent forms.
Local Education Forum on March 21st
Martin Foley and Education Minister James Merlino will update local school communities on educational initiatives such as the Ferrars St and South Melbourne Park Primary Schools as well as new developments at Albert Park College on Monday 21st March at the South Melbourne Commons Hall, (cnr Bank and Montague Sts) from 6.30pm to 8pm. This is a free event, but RSVP is essential at bit.ly/educationstate

Annette Maloney

Principal's Report

Parent Teacher Interviews March 22 & 23
Our Parent Teacher interviews for this semester are taking place in the final week of term. Our Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers will be holding interviews on Tuesday 22nd March and our 3-6 teachers on Wednesday 23rd. This interview is to discuss how your child has begun the school year, find out about their learning goals and for you to pass on any additional information you feel your child's teacher may need to know.

We are using www.schoolinterviews.com.au to manage bookings. Parents are asked to logon to the site using the code uvm8v to arrange their time.

Our specialist teachers will also be available in their classrooms at these times to discuss their programs and answer any questions you may have.

If you have any questions or need support to make your booking, please see your child's class teacher.

Ride to School Day Tomorrow Friday 11th
Tomorrow, Port Melbourne Primary is celebrating National Ride2School Day. The aim of the event is to promote the positive health benefits students (and parents) can gain from riding, scooting, skating or walking to school.

The number of students who choose an active option to travel to school tomorrow, will be recorded and the data will be sent back to Bike Victoria who will compare our data to that of other years and to other Victorian schools.

Recently it has been pleasing to see so many of our senior students modelling a healthy message for the larger cohort of Junior School students by riding, scooting or walking to school.

Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2016
The Reading Challenge will open soon. The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is not a competition; it is a challenge set by the Premier of Victoria to see if children can read (or have read to them) a set number of books throughout the year. It is a great opportunity to read some new and interesting books. More information is available at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/ or on the school’s website. A free Challenge calendar will be available in the Herald-Sun soon, so, are you ready to take the Challenge?

Swimming Successes
Best of luck to the 21 students representing us at the Beachside Swimming Carnival at the Oakleigh Pool tomorrow morning. Thank you to the parents who have again agreed to transport the students to and from the pool.

Year 5-6 Swimming Program
Over the next fortnight our Year 5 and 6 students are having an open water experience conducted by trained lifesavers from the Port Melbourne Lifesaving Club. Each class will spend about three hours with their instructors at Port Melbourne beach, instead of participating in our traditional six water safety sessions at a swimming pool.

Every Day Counts
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher early as early as possible.

**Have you applied for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)?**

Parents are reminded that if you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for the CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their achievements.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website. Applications close 3 June 2016.

**Jump Rope for Heart**

Did you know heart disease affects 2 out of every 3 families?

Help your child to have fun and support the Heart Foundation at the same time. Register your child online and simply press send to all your family and friends! It’s easy, safe and secure.


Send emails to family and friends asking for sponsorship.

**End of Term Arrangements**

School breaks up at **1.30pm on Thursday 24th March**. Recess will be from **11 am. to 11.45am.** There will then be an assembly at **1.15pm.** You may wish to provide a larger snack than usual as children may not get lunch until they get home.

There will be no lunch orders on March 24th. After School Care will operate from **1.30pm** onwards.

If your child is attending After Care, you are requested to provide a cut lunch. Please notify Ben on **0431 682 747** if your child will be using the program on that afternoon. School resumes on **Monday 11th April**.

**Weekly Staff Profile**

This week, we profile our French teachers, Emily Burkimsher and Trisha Wheeler.

Madam Emily has always loved learning languages. Growing up in the UK, one of her earliest memories was being on holiday in France and wanting to understand what her French friend on the climbing frame was saying to her.

In 2008, Emily trained to be a primary school teacher, specialising in French. As part of her studies she spent a month teaching in a French school in Amiens near Paris. This developed her fluency in the language and she really enjoyed being immersed in the French culture.

Returning to the UK, Emily taught for several years in York where she became Design and Technology Coordinator at Wigginton Primary School. Emily and her husband moved over to Melbourne in September 2015. Emily is already feeling at home here especially after recently joining the Port Melbourne Primary School team.

Emily enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for French throughout the school from Prep to Year 6. She loves all things musical and enjoys bringing this into the classroom too. Emily is also a real foodie so she is looking forward to the French food topics that will be coming up!

Madam Trisha was born in Vancouver B.C. Canada and moved to Melbourne as an exchange student in 2004. She fell in love with the city,
(and an Aussie!) and decided to make a permanent move. She graduated from the University of Melbourne’s Masters of Teaching (Primary) program in 2011 and, after three years as member of our Prep team, is using her bilingual background to enhance our French program.

Outside of school, Trisha and her husband Jess are kept busy by their toddler daughter Frankie, while Trisha also finds time to enjoy cooking, boxing, gardening, and yoga, and looks forward to visiting family and friends in Canada.

**Term 1 Dates**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 11</td>
<td>Beachside Swimming</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>6AB Swimming</td>
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<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>5AB Swimming</td>
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<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews P-2</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher Interviews 3-6</td>
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<td>Mar 24</td>
<td><strong>Term 1 ends 1.30pm</strong></td>
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**Assistant Principal's Report**

**Education Sub Committee**

As the new School Council for 2016 has been elected, it is time to form the 2016 Education subcommittee.

The role of this committee is to:

* Oversee the development of school policies
* Review policies on a 3 year cycle
* Provide School Council with policies for ratification

Whilst policy development and review is the main focus for Education subcommittee, there are occasions when other topics are discussed such as, school performance data, ICT (Information Communications Technology) infrastructure and resources, teaching and learning programs etc.

Over the past twelve months, the Education Committee has played a vital role in rolling out the 2015-2018 School Strategic Plan (available on the school website) and developing the 2016 Annual Implementation Plan.

This year, the Education Committee will play a major role in the on-going development of the school’s eLearning Policy, which will set out the school’s ICT curriculum and the hardware and software needed to support that curriculum, and in the continued implementation and evaluation of the school’s Student Well-Being framework, *KidsMatter*.

There will be significant community consultation at each stage of these processes.

Our Education subcommittee meetings will begin at 5:30pm at the school, running concurrently with Buildings and Grounds meeting, on a Tuesday night. If you have a passion for, or expertise in, policy development/review, or you are keen to contribute to Teaching and Learning discussions, we welcome you to join this subcommittee.

Our first meeting will be on April 12th at 5:30pm in the staffroom. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Kym Hall**

**Parents & Friends**

**PFA Annual General Meeting 15th March**

School Staff Room 7.30pm

Please join us for our AGM on March 15th.

We will be presenting a summary of the past year which includes a full financial summary. All positions within the PFA will be declared open for election and we welcome everyone to come along.

Simone and Thea have thoroughly enjoyed the past 3 years as co-presidents and have no intention of abandoning the PFA but we feel it is time for some new ideas and fresh faces!

Please don’t be scared off by the prospect of being roped into something you are not up for but many hands do make light work. If you have any questions regarding any of the roles within the PFA please contact Simone or Thea.

**Family Fun Run Thanks**

The PMPS Family Fun Run was held last Friday, and was a fabulous success. It was terrific to see so many families and children embrace the afternoon, and get well and truly floured and wet.

We saw in the vicinity of 150 children and families, and we have raised approximately $2000 to date.

A huge thank you to Heidi Tucker and her team for another successful PMPS family evening.
The PMPS Annual Easter Raffle
The PFA Easter Raffle is on again! Thank you to all of those families who have already donated an Easter egg.

To ensure the event is a huge success, we ask a few things from you:

1. Raffle books: Raffle books were distributed earlier this week. Each child received a book of 10 tickets, valued at $2 each. Please encourage your child to sell the tickets to family, friends and neighbours. Please ensure the purchaser’s name and mobile number is clearly written on the ticket stub. Additional tickets are available at the office if required.

2. Donation of Easter Eggs: Thanks to those families who have already donated an Easter treat to the raffle. If you haven’t already done so, it’s not too late! Donations can be made to the office until Monday 21st March 2016. The more donations we receive, the more prizes we can distribute!

3. Return of money and tickets: Please return all tickets and money to your classroom teacher by Monday 21st March 2016.

4. Preparation of prizes: Prizes will be prepared (bundled together and wrapped etc) at 9.00 am on Wednesday 23rd March 2016. We hope this will take place in a spare room at school. Keep an eye out for further details regarding the location in an email from your class rep. Last year, 130 prizes were prepared so we would love as many volunteers to help out with this (fun) task as possible.

5. Raffle draw: the major prizes for the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 24th March 2016.

Good luck to all!

Sushi Day – Friday March 18th
Next Friday 18th March the PFA is having a sushi lunch day at school. Sushi will be provided by Yurakucho Modern Japanese Eatery in Bay St.

There are 4 flavours to choose from, Salmon, cooked Tuna, Teriyaki Chicken and Avocado.

Each sushi roll will cost $3, order as many as you like, mix and match is fine.

We will be only accepting orders through the Qkr! app. (Please make sure you have upgraded your child’s 2016 HOME GROUP on the app).

Final orders need to be in by Tuesday 15th March at 12.00 noon to ensure we get all orders to our suppliers.

The sushi will be freshly made and delivered on the day. Please note we are unable to cater for any food intolerances or allergies.

As with all our PFA food days we can not do it without volunteers. Please use the link below to access our volunteer spreadsheet to help us pack and deliver the sushi to the classrooms. We will need volunteers from 12.30 till 2.00. The more the merrier.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EmtH4J9yJDhLohDmKn1E5Sivc6dwHz9rddt2xwPvVZY/edit?usp=sharing

Thea & Sim
Thea: theakogler@bigpond.com; Ph: 0438 084 186
Sim: simone@iascend.com.au; Ph: 0419 559 410

Port Colts Junior Football Club
Come down to training on Thursday March 10th at 5.30pm and train with and meet St Kilda footballers Shane Savage, Tom Lee, Nathan Freeman and Hugh Goddard, or join in at 6.30pm for a Q&A session with the players followed by autographs and selfies. Our Club 40 sponsor Domino's Pizza are providing a $10 meal deal, so don't forget to RSVP to footy@portcoltsjuniorfootballclub.com.au For all the latest details check out the website http://www.portcoltsjuniorfootballclub.com.au/

Auskick at Port Colts
There will be an information session for Auskick parents at the Murphy Reserve clubrooms at 7pm on Monday March 21. If your child may be involved in the Port Melbourne Auskick program this year, you need to attend.

Port Melbourne Auskick for 2016 commences on Sunday April 11th and will run from 9.30am to 11am each Sunday morning. To register your child visit http://www.portcoltsjuniorfootballclub.com.au/teams/2016/auskick/