Voluntary Contributions
Thank-you to the 314 families who have so far paid their Voluntary Contribution ($375 for one child, $550 for two children and $600 for three or more children). Your contributions are enabling us to fully implement most of our curriculum programs. There are still 106 families who have yet to make a contribution, in addition to the approximately 100 families on Healthcare cards who have been unable to make a contribution.

You are reminded that the Excursion Levy and the Water Safety Program fees are compulsory and all other fees and charges are voluntary. However, it is almost impossible to offer a full curriculum effectively, unless most families contribute to these additional areas. If you have not already done so, please make any voluntary contribution as soon as possible so we can plan appropriate curriculum programs for the rest of the year.

Excursions Levy
Only 98 of our 522 families have yet to pay the excursions levy. Children are unable to attend excursions unless payment has been made. The cost of each excursion will be included on the permission forms.

Ride To School Day

Ride to School Day was a huge success with so many people scooting/ricing or walking to school. Special thanks to Councillor Bernadene Voss and Michael from Bicycle Victoria for their help and to 99 Cycles and Port Melbourne Cycles for donating prizes. Thank you to Dervla Murtagh for the time and effort she put in to make the day so successful.

Don’t forget that we now have the Golden Boot award so make sure that every day is ride to school day! If you can, try to ride/walk or scoot at least some of the way to school.

Family Fun Run

Thank-you to the many hundreds of PMPS parents, students and staff who supported last Friday’s Family Fun Run. Over $3,500 was raised by the students and their families who paraded around Murphy Reserve resplendent in House Colours. The winning House was Lagoon which had 136 participants.

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

Working Bee
Thank-you to the twenty-five plus parents and family members who worked so diligently to improve the appearance of the Prep playground and the area in front of B Block last Sunday. It was great to see some new Prep parents helping out. Jenny Thomas did a great job co-ordinating the day (and organising the catering!!)
The quadrangle behind A Block was the main focus of the day with lots of tasks completed including the construction of a new rock garden, which looks great. The Prep playground will be a major focus for the next Working Bee.

Pupil Free Day Tomorrow
Students are not required at school tomorrow as our staff will be participating in professional development activities related to student well-being that day. Camp Australia will be operating a full day OHSC program tomorrow. To book a place, please contact Camp Australia.

Michele Williams

Term 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
Our Parent Teacher Interviews will be taking place next week, on Tuesday 24th March for Prep – Year 2 students and Wednesday 25th for Years 3-6. These meetings offer parents the chance to meet with their child’s class teacher to discuss the start to the school year, future learning goals, ask any questions or pass along any relevant information. If you have not yet booked an appointment with your child’s class teacher, please logon to www.schoolinterviews.com.au, enter the event code DVPZJ and select a suitable day and time. Bookings will close at 5pm tomorrow (Friday 20th March).

Our Specialist Teachers (Music, Art, PE and French) will not be offering formal interviews or individual student feedback at this early stage of the year. However they will be opening up their learning spaces from 3:45 – 5:15pm on both Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th to share with parents their learning programs and answer any questions that you may have.

Year 1-4 Swimming Program
Consent forms for our Year 1-4 swimming program, which commences on the first day of term 2, were sent home last week and MUST be returned to school, along with any outstanding monies (many parents paid for swimming along with the excursion levy) by Wednesday 26th March.

District Swimming Sports
Eleven of our students represented us with distinction at the Division Swimming Sports at the Oakleigh Pool on Tuesday. Although no swimmers qualified for the Zone Finals, all swimmers performed very well. Thank-you to Simon Magasanik who has been training the team since December.

Sports Equipment Donations
Thank-you to all the parents who have donated sports equipment to the PE Department in recent weeks.

Year 6/7 Transition Process
A letter and application for 2016 secondary placement will go home to every Year 6 students’ family on April 21st. The school will complete the residential details for each family on the forms before they go home. Families will be advised about the outcome of their application on August 15th.

Principal, Steve Cook, and Assistant Principal, John Pobjoy, from Albert Park College will be at assembly on Monday 13th April and will speak to interested parents and our Year 6 students after assembly. The College holds its Open Day on Thursday 23rd April from 2pm to 7pm. Entry to the SEAL (Select Entry Accelerated Learning) program at the College is by a testing program that will be held at the College on Saturday 9th May at 9am. Registrations for the test must be made on-line by Friday 1st May at www.albertparkcollege.vic.edu.au/acceleratedlearning.html. Our Year 6 teachers can provide parents and students with additional information on this program.

Other schools to offer SEAL Programs include University High School and Mount Alexander.
College, and information about test registration is available on the school websites.

**Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge 2015**
The Reading Challenge officially opened last week. 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. Please read the notices attached to this newsletter, and if you want to be part of the Challenge, fill in the form and return to the office or your class room teacher. More information is available at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/ or on the school’s website. A free Challenge Calendar was included in the Herald Sun on Tuesday. So, are you ready to take the Challenge?

**NAPLAN**
The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will involve students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 from all States and Territories. In Victoria approximately 260,000 students from all Government, Catholic and Independent schools will participate in the program. Our Year 3 & 5 students are due to undertake these assessments on May 12th, 13th & 14th.

The NAPLAN tests will assess Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (including spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy

**Holiday Program**
Camp Australia will be running a Vacation Care program at Port Melbourne PS during the term holidays. For more information, contact James at our AfterCare program on 0431 682 747.

**Free Dental Treatment**
At present, all families in receipt of Family Tax Benefit Part A are entitled to $1000 of free dental work every two years (although in these interesting political times, who knows what may happen in the next budget). Our nearest public Oral Health Service is at Inner South Community Health Service, 341 Coventry St, South Melbourne (9520 3177).

The ISCHS team will be at school on April 29th and May 6th to conduct free dental checkups for Preps in receipt of Family Tax Benefit A. More information and consent forms will be sent home in the first week of term 2

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**End of Term Arrangements**
School breaks up at **1.30pm on Friday 27th 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 27th. 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 James on 0431 682 747 if your child will be using the program on that afternoon. School resumes on **Monday 13th April.**

**Weekly Staff Profile**
This week, we profile our French teachers, Tara Chambers and Caitlin Green.

As soon as Tara graduated from The University of Melbourne, she flew to Europe in order to improve her abilities in teaching and in the French language. Whilst there, Tara taught at schools throughout Cambridgeshire and Norwich in England. She also used her time in Europe for travel, visiting as many countries as possible.

Tara has studied French at the University of Melbourne and at the Alliance Française in Cambridge. She lived with a French family in Salleboeuf, Bordeaux for an extended period of time, during which she was able to put her French speaking into practice. Tara returned to Australia in August last year, and has been teaching at schools around Melbourne since then. When she is not teaching, Tara enjoys playing the piano and the violin – she competed a Bachelor of Music at the University of Melbourne and has played with various orchestras including the Melbourne Youth Orchestra and the Melbourne University Symphony Orchestra.
After high school, Caitlin spent a gap year living in Brussels which is where she initially learnt French, before studying Education and Drama at Qld University of Technology. She took up a teaching position in a small country town on the Atherton Tablelands, where she introduced French there and put on the first school musical in years. She then moved to Brussels teaching in international schools before moving to London where she taught French in an all-boys high school for 3 years, while travelling a lot and continuing to visit Belgium regularly. On returning to Australia, Caitlin chose to live in Melbourne rather than back to Brisbane as she thought the weather would be less of a shock after 4 years in Europe. She co-ordinates our Program for Students With Disabilities but is still teaching some French classes each week.

She is enjoying sharing her passion for the French language and everything French with the PMPS community as well as involving herself in most other school activities such as our camping program.

**Term 1 Dates**
March 20........... Pupil Free Day
March 24........... P/T Interviews Prep-2
March 25........... P/T Interviews Years 3-6
Mar 27........... Term 1 ends 1.30pm

**Ann Turner-Calleri**

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**Curriculum Update**

**Mathletics**
We would like to thank those parents who came along to the Mathletics parent information session on Tuesday evening. Allira and Neil demonstrated how to get the most from our exciting new resource and the various features to support student learning in Maths, including the new ‘parent portal’ that allows parents to receive a weekly email sharing the Mathletics tasks completed, points earned and areas for improvement by their child that week. If you weren’t able to attend the meeting, the PowerPoint used has been uploaded to the school website at [www.portmelb.vic.edu.au/parent-info/mathletics/](http://www.portmelb.vic.edu.au/parent-info/mathletics/)

Neil Scott & Allira Somerville

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**Parents & Friends**

**The PMPS Inaugural Green Day Family Fun Run**
A fantastic time was had by parents, children and friends at the inaugural Green Day Family Fun Run last Friday. What a great scene seeing all those kids running and getting wet and grubby with their parents! We wish to put out a huge thank you to our organisers, Dave Roberts, Dave Burdett, Heidi Tucker and Bre McGrath, along with the many parents who were willing ‘water soakers’ and ‘flour throwers,’ and those who worked tirelessly on the BBQs, selling sausages, chicken rolls, drinks and icy poles. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Thanks to local businesses Bowens in Salmon Street, Port Melbourne, Chef’s Hat and Bakers Delight for their generous donations. Please support the businesses that support our school.

Given our short turnaround time, we were delighted to see so many willing runners. The school made $3,500 after expenses, and we anticipate that these funds will go towards further rejuvenation of our schoolyard, with plans to install shade sails over the exposed play equipment areas.

**Annual Easter Raffle – drawn Friday 27th March**
Each year the PFA holds an Easter Raffle, which is drawn on the last day of term, Friday 27th March.

To ensure the raffle is a huge success we ask a few things from you. Raffle books were sent home ten days ago, and more are available from the Office. Each child received a book of 10 tickets, selling at $2 each. Please encourage your child to sell the tickets to family, friends and neighbours, and don’t forget to ensure names and mobile numbers are clearly written on the ticket stub. Please return money and tickets to your classroom teacher.

We need as many Easter Eggs as possible, the more eggs, the more winner. - Last year we handed out over 80 prizes! Egg donations can be made to the office. Please return all egg donations, tickets and money by next Tuesday 24th March.

If you have questions regarding the PFA, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

**Thea and Sim**
Thea: 0438 084 186
Simone: 0419 559 410
Email: PMPSparentsandfriends@gmail.com

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**Community Announcement**

**Holiday Program for Pre-Schoolers**
Bubup Womindjeka Childrens Centre is running a School Holiday Program for Pre-Schoolers. For more information, ring 9676 8300 or email info@bwfcc.org.au
Mathlete of the Week
Congratulations to the following two students who scored the highest amount of points on Mathletics this week! (Week 7)

- Junior School m- Adit Murugavel 2C

Senior School - Emma Watanabe 5B
Congratulations to the class of the week-2D, who scored 31,824 points in total.

School Production Survey for Parents:
Our growing school population makes many events more complex. To this end, we've assembled a Production Survey that we'd like parents to complete at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentProductionSurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ParentProductionSurvey) Please give each question your full consideration. The survey will be available up until the end of Term 1 – March 27th. Please speak to Maria Chadwick if you have any questions.

With thanks & appreciation,
Maria