From the Principal

School Council News
At the Annual General Meeting of School Council on Tuesday evening, the following School Council members were elected as office bearers for 2016.

President
Michael Vekic

Vice President
Keetha Rajavel

Correspondence Secretary
Giselle Cassar

Minutes Secretary
Tracey Etherington

Treasurer
Magdaline Goh

Assistant Treasurer
Mark Reid

Parents’ Club Representative
Kate Macklin

Other Parent Representatives
Omar Abdul Rahim, Hayley Ho, Michelle Altundal, Jason Jurrjens, Diane Tsagazones

Other Staff Representatives
Jennifer Churcher

Executive Officer/Principal
John Hurley

Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings
Parent/Teacher/Student Meetings will be held on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd March.

Harmony Day
Harmony will be celebrated on Monday 21st March. See the separate poster re this day. All students are encouraged to wear orange and bring a gold coin donation.

Last Day of Term – Thursday 24th March
A reminder that we will have a whole school assembly at 9.00am in the Gym. Parents are welcome to attend.

School finishes at 2.30pm on this day.

John Hurley, Principal
Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Monday 21st March from 3.50pm – 8pm and Tuesday 22nd March from 3.50pm – 6pm. Some teachers have times available outside of these dates, which will be made available to you when you log in.

Bookings open – Friday 4th March at 9am
Bookings close – Friday 18th March at 4pm

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

Enter THIS school event code.
Then follow the 3 simple steps.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

CSEF APPLICATIONS

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

How to Apply

- Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF or TMPS website.

Tracey Etherington
Business Manager
2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Thomas Mitchell Primary School will be offering the following competitions this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject/Paper</th>
<th>School Years</th>
<th>Official Sitting Date</th>
<th>Entry Fee, incl. GST</th>
<th>Fee Enclosed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies *</td>
<td>3–6</td>
<td>17th May 2016</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2–6</td>
<td>31st May 2016</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>3–6</td>
<td>14th June 2016</td>
<td>$18.70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>2–6</td>
<td>15th June 2016</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>2–6</td>
<td>2nd August 2016</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>2–6</td>
<td>16th August 2016</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These competitions will be held from May to August. To enable us to process students entry fees and submit their names, entries will close on **Thursday 24th March**. Unfortunately because of strict timelines set by the N.S.W University, **late entries cannot be accepted**

I give permission for my child of **Child’s name** Class **__________**

Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter on the timetable above.

Please find enclosed ____________ total entry fee

Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian **_____________________**

Date **_____________________**

Signature of Parent/Guardian

**ICAS ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

- **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**
  - General IT skills using familiar contexts, including:
    - Common operating systems and hardware
    - Word processing
    - Graphics and multimedia
    - Spreadsheets and databases
    - Internet and email
    - Programming and scripting

- **ENGLISH**
  - Reading and language skills are assessed in a range of texts. Students are required to locate, identify, interpret, infer and synthesise information in and about texts, focusing on the aspects of:
    - Reading for meaning in literary texts
    - Reading for meaning in factual texts
    - Textual devices
    - Syntax
    - Vocabulary

- **MATHEMATICS**
  - Mathematical skills in a range of contexts from the following areas:
    - Number and arithmetic
    - Algebra and patterns
    - Measures and units
    - Space and geometry
    - Chance and data

- **SCIENCE**
  - Scientific skills in the subject contexts of Earth and Beyond, Natural and Processed Materials, Life and Living, and Energy and Change, including:
    - Measuring and observing
    - Interpreting data
    - Predicting/concluding from data
    - Investigating
    - Reasoning/probems solving

- **SPELLING**
  - Spelling of words that range from words with simple spelling patterns to words with difficult or unusual spelling patterns, in four contexts, including:
    - Dictation
    - Proofreading
    - Error correction
    - Applying rules and conventions

- **WRITING**
  - Constructing an aspect of a narrative text, demonstrating:
    - Text purpose and structure
    - Language choices that enhance the writing
    - Syntax and grammar
    - Punctuation
Harmony Day

Monday 21st March

Thomas Mitchell Primary School will be participating in HARMONY DAY on Monday 21st March 2016. This special day will end with students participating in a whole school assembly in the gym, where there will be a wonderful, exciting, cultural experience for all to enjoy. Parents are invited to attend this assembly at 2:40pm.

The purpose of Harmony Day is to strengthen our sense of belonging, respect and understanding of cultural diversity. At Thomas Mitchell Primary School we pride ourselves as a highly multi-cultural community and we aim to provide an internationalised perspective within our curriculum. Our students represent over 70 countries and we speak 60 different languages at home. Our staff represent 41 countries. We teach both Indonesian and Mandarin (and of course, English!). We are also a fully accredited member of the Council of International Schools (CIS).

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in cultural diversity activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds belong to this nation and enrich it.

Students are encouraged to wear something ORANGE (The Harmony Day colour) on Monday 21st March. A gold coin donation on the day will be collected to go towards San Isidro School in Bohol, Philippines. This is the school we have supported for several years.

On Harmony Day we encourage students to bring an item from home to share and celebrate their cultural identity or history. This may be a photo, a storybook, a special artefact, a cultural item of clothing or a prepared story that has been passed down. If you would like to come and speak to your child’s class to share your cultural heritage please be in contact with your child’s teacher.

For more information on Harmony Day you can visit:
- www.harmony.gov.au

We look forward to a great week of celebrating cultural diversity and harmony!

From The 2016 Harmony Day Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Celebration</th>
<th>Bring</th>
<th>Wear</th>
<th>Why</th>
<th>Assembly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st March</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
<td>Gold coin donation</td>
<td>Something orange</td>
<td>To strengthen our community</td>
<td>2:40 pm in the gym</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EFT & credit card facilities available (minimum transaction of $15)

**HELP NEEDED URGENTLY!!**

We are looking for volunteers to help in the uniform shop organising and selling 2nd hand items for sale. Please contact Sally Opie in the uniform shop.

**SECOND HAND DONATED ITEMS SALE**

On Tuesday 22nd March we will be having a second hand sale of donated items. This will be held outside the office between 3.00pm to 4.00pm. **Cash sales only.**
CONJUNCTIVITIS - PINKEYE

There has been a confirmed case of Conjunctivitis in our school community. This is especially important for all children as this condition is highly contagious. This week I have included some information giving families enough information to seek medical guidance if Conjunctivitis is suspected.

Conjunctivitis is a common eye infection, especially among children.

Conjunctivitis is highly contagious and therefore it is important for parents to have their children assessed by a doctor for treatment and to prevent spread of this infection.

CAUSE
Conjunctivitis can be caused by bacteria, viruses (which is highly contagious) or allergic reactions. This can sometimes be difficult to distinguish.

BACTERIAL CONJUNCTIVITIS:
- Both eyes are almost always infected with bacterial Conjunctivitis, although it may start in one eye. There is likely to be a gritty feeling with a discharge of pus.

VIRAL CONJUNCTIVITIS:
- Conjunctivitis from a virus may involve one or both eyes, causing red itchy eyes with a discharge.

ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS:
- If the inflammation is the result of an allergy, there are often other signs of hay fever, including itchy nose and sneezing or a history of other allergic conditions. The eyes are itchy and watery.

CLINICAL FEATURES: (signs and symptoms)
- Redness behind the eyelid, spreading up the white of the eye.
- Swelling of the eye.
- Puffy eyes.
- Excessive tears.
- Discharge from the eye, which dries when the child sleeps, causing crusting around the eyelids photophobia (a dislike of bright lights).

INCUBATION: (the time interval between initial contact with infectious agent and the appearance of clinical signs and symptoms)
- Usually 24-72 hours.

TRANSMISSION: (the transfer of a disease from one individual to another)
- Conjunctivitis can be transmitted via direct contact with the discharge from the eye or upper respiratory tract (nose and throat) of the infected person.
- Contaminated fingers or objects.
COMMUNICABILITY: (the time during which an infectious agent may be transferred directly or indirectly from an infected person to a susceptible host)
- Conjunctivitis is communicable as long as there is discharge present.

TREATMENT:
If you develop Conjunctivitis you will need antibiotic eye drops or ointment to:
- Treat the infection.
- Help prevent the spread of conjunctivitis.

You will remain infectious as long as there is a discharge from your eye.

SCHOOL EXCLUSION
- Children should not attend school until infectious discharge from eyes has ceased.

SPORT NEWS

Regional Swimming Carnival
All the very best of luck to our four super star swimmers competing at the Regional Swimming Carnival next Thursday 24th March at MSAC. GO GIRLS!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily</td>
<td>Butterfly, Freestyle and Medley relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joy</td>
<td>Breaststroke, Freestyle, Freestyle and Medley relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alissa</td>
<td>Freestyle and Medley relay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhya</td>
<td>Freestyle and Medley relay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TMPS Cross Country**

Congratulations to all students for their amazing efforts at the TMPS Cross Country Carnival last Tuesday. It was fantastic to see so many parents, friends and family members cheering and supporting on the day.

Well done to the students in years 4, 5 and 6 who finished in the top ten for their age group. These students have qualified for our TMPS District Cross Country Team. The District Cross Country Carnival will be held next term on Wednesday 20th April.

**Cross Country Training**

Training is available for students who qualified for the district team or any students wanting to train and improve their fitness on Friday 18th March and Wednesday 23rd March. Please meet in the Gym foyer at 8:20 am. Training will be located on the top oval.

**House Points**

**Weekly House Points Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradman</td>
<td>Perkins</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total House Point Results for 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perkins</td>
<td>Bradman</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cross Country House Points will be added next week! Have a great week! 😊

*Olivia Goder*
*Physical Education Teacher*
Easter Raffle

Tickets are still selling for this year’s Easter Raffle. They cost 50c each or 10 for $4 and the draw will be held on Monday 21st March. Good luck to everyone who has already entered!!

If you would like to take part, please return your ticket stubs by tomorrow, Friday 18th March, with your name and contact number (or child’s class) printed clearly on EVERY ticket. Please also include the correct money as change will not be given. Extra ticket books are available at the school office if you would like more chances to win!

Donations for raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated and can be left at the school office. Thank you!!!

Meeting

Our next meeting will be held at 2:30pm tomorrow, Friday 18th March so please put the date in your diaries and come along to the staffroom if you’d like to be involved in the Parents’ Club.

School Banking

- We had 93 deposits this week. Thanks to all our regular savers and welcome to our new savers!
- School Banking is a great way to encourage kids to save and you can start with as little as 50c a week!
- Easy to join. Collect a Parent Pack from the school office or go to your local Commonwealth Bank branch.
- Did you know younger siblings (and those at high school) can sign up too?
- If you’ve got an account and have lost your book, please bring a note to school and, if we can find your details, we’ll issue a new book.
- Our school receives $5 for each new account registered and 5% commission on each weekly deposit.
- Competition for 2016 - Full Day Adventure Tour at Australia Zoo including meet & greet with Bindi & Robert Irwin! Flights, accommodation, hire car & spending money included!! Just make 15 or more deposits before the end of Term 3.
- Deposits are processed every Wednesday at 9am. Please come and help if you’re free.

TMPS Playgroup

The school is running a Playgroup for 0-5 year olds each Tuesday morning from 9:15am – 10:30am during the school term again this year. We ask for a gold coin donation to participate and for parents to please bring a nut free snack for their child/ren.

It is a great opportunity to meet other parents of children attending our school or local families and for your younger children to meet other children who may be joining the school in the future.

Please feel free to bring a friend along, or if you know someone with younger children, who would like to join this group, please let them know.

Fun activities include: playdough, painting, pasting, stories, music, singing and games.
Better Buddies: Buddy Bear

This week the children at the program were introduced to 'Buddy Bear'. At OSHC, each child will be given the opportunity to take Buddy Bear home, introducing him to their families and taking him along on their activities for the weekend.

Buddy Bear is an initiative of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation which has been designed to help children at school feel safe, valued and connected to the community while encouraging a friendly and caring school environment that is free of bullying.

The children are all very excited about the addition to the OSHC family and can’t wait to spend more time with him.

Janice DeClase and the OSHC Team ©
Happy to be Me!

On Wednesday 9th March, all the Preps were lucky enough to have Caroline and Phillip perform their show 'Happy to be Me'.

We thought it was really, really funny! We also learnt that everyone has their own special talents and should be proud of themselves!

Prep AY, AS, DH & LH
The Preps did a fantastic job participating in their first ever T.M.P.S Cross Country.
Alana OAY won first place in the Prep Girls race and Khalid OAS won first place in the Prep Boys race.

Everyone had a great time!

OAY, OAS, ODH & OLH