**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

**Staff News**
Planning for 2015 is well under way and we almost have our staffing for next year in place. Two of our teachers will be leaving us at the end of this year.

Miss Liz Rout will be leaving us to go to Cranbourne Park Primary School. Liz started her teaching career at Thomas Mitchell and has undertaken a range of teaching roles during her time here. She has had a profound influence on the children she has taught, and we thank her for her wonderful contribution to our school. We wish her well for the future development of her career.

Miss Lauren Proven will be taking a year’s leave to travel overseas. We expect Lauren to return to Thomas Mitchell in 2016.

Congratulations to Qing Liang and her husband Kohichi on the safe arrival of their son “Yuuma Nagai” who was born last Thursday 4th December. Congratulations also to Renee Bilston and Dave on the safe arrival of their son “Jonah William” who was born late last night, Wednesday 10th December.

**Class Lists and Reports**
These will be sent home next Thursday.

**Last Day of school for 2014**
A reminder that Friday 19th December is the last day of the school year. School finishes at 1.00pm on the last day.

**Congratulations to Asher P**
Congratulations to Asher for his wonderful academic results this year. Not only was he the recipient of an ICAS gold medal for a high distinction in Year 3 Science, he also received another 3 high distinctions in Spelling, Mathematics and English. We are all proud of you.

**Parent Helpers Morning Tea**
This morning we had a parent helper’s morning tea, which celebrates and thanks parents who help us at school. We know that many more parents who help us over the school year cannot make the morning tea. To all of those parents – a big “thank you”.

*John Hurley, Principal*
UPCOMING DATES FOR THE UNIFORM SHOP DURING TERM 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday mornings</td>
<td>8.30am – 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th December 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday afternoons</td>
<td>3.00pm – 4.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th December 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(EFT & credit card facilities available (minimum transaction of $15)

Thomas Mitchell Primary School
2015 Start Dates

Thursday 29th January
Year 1-6 students commence 9:00-3:30pm

Thursday 29th January – Wednesday 4th February
Prep students testing

Thursday 5th February
Prep students commence 9:00-3:30

Canteen News - Tuesday 16th December will be the last day the canteen is open for 2014.
No lunch orders or counter sales will be available after Tuesday 16th.
Canteen closed - Wednesday 17th December, Thursday 18th December and Friday 19th December. The canteen reopens Thursday 29th January 2015.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BOOKS AND PAYMENTS FOR 2015:

With last week’s newsletter a booklet was given to each child in years Prep to 5 to give to their parent/guardian, outlining the 2015 Parent Payment Requests, Book List and Uniform Shop arrangements, and offering parents the opportunity to prepay and avoid queues on book list day.

For parents that hold a Health Care / Centrelink Concession Card:
Parents would also be aware that the Government grant, known as Education Maintenance Allowance, will not continue in 2015.
School Council has considered the impact this may have on a number of our families, and have decided to offer support in the form of a 25% discount off books and school nurse charges ($60 per child) for all parents who can produce a current Health Care/Concession Card issued by Centrelink. The card must show the parent/guardian and child/ren’s names, and be current in the months of January and/or February 2015.
Please refer to the Parent Information booklet for full details of applying for this discount.

For parents wishing to enter into payment arrangements:
We are happy to discuss individual and confidential payment plans. If you would like to arrange a plan, please complete the form enclosed with the Parent Information booklet and return it to school by tomorrow Friday 12th December 2014. Please do not leave these discussions until booklist day.
**Book Collection and Payment Dates**

**Tuesday 27th January 2015**

8.00am — 12.00pm  
Closed between 12.00 and 2.00pm  
2.00pm — 6.00pm  

The Uniform shop will also be open for sales during the above times.

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**Credit Card and EFTPOS Payments**

Just a reminder when making EFTPOS or credit card payments at the office the minimum transaction amount is $15.00. Please note when making payment at the counter it is a requirement of all banks that the person presenting the card must be the authorised holder of the card. Your cooperation in complying with this would be greatly appreciated.

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**HABITAT DAY- ALL ABOUT BIRD LIFE**

It was a fabulous day on the twenty eighth of November, twenty fourteen. All the year four classes joined up for Habitat Day.

We all started off at the shade area and soon headed off to our activities. Every class started off with their own teachers and soon progressed to the next activities.

Mr. Stanford showed the year four classes some terribly sad videos about how pollution can affect birds and how it can affect sea life. One of the videos we watched was about an island and that island was 2000km from the nearest civilisation and the birds there were eating plastic and all sorts of bottle caps. After that, Mr. Stanford and the classes brainstormed what role does media play. Then, they brainstormed lots of things to tell and question a reporter that came to T.M.P.S on Wednesday the third of December.

Another activity was with Miss Howely and Miss G (student helper). The activity they did was playing a game. The game was called the food chain game. The game was obviously about the food chain and it was also about polluting the place where animals live. It demonstrated how animals and nature all need energy to live and when other animals eat other animals, they get more energy. We learnt that animals survive on other animals and that pollution affects the species and their food. Part of the food chain will break and animals will have less food to feed on. Populations will either be too much or too less.

The activity with Miss Turlejski and Sandy the park ranger was about the different kinds of animals that lived in Lysterfield Park. Sandy talked about all the animals she brought and the animals she brought had real fur and real claws but they were stuffed inside. She also said something about what their job was in the park. Sandy also let us pat the animals she brought.

The next activity was with Miss Pohlen. The activity was making bird feeders. If and only you had a milk or juice carton, you could make your bird feeder with that or if you didn’t have a carton, then you just had to use a paper plate that Miss Pohlen provided. It was a really fun activity and when Emily went home and hung it on a tree branch, one hour later, half of it was gone.

Finally, Mrs Cooke had her activity and the activity with her was planting plants appropriate for the birds to live in. The first class planted the plants. The second class put the guards around, the fourth class put the tanbark and the last class watered the plants.

What a marvellous and splendid day all of the year fours had. Thank you Mrs Cooke for the wonderful organisation!

By Lucy and Emily 4BS
LAST DAY TOMORROW
UNIFORM SHOP – YEAR 6 AUTOGRAPHED WINDCHEATERS FOR 2015

As in previous years we will be offering students who will be in Year 6 next year windcheaters with every Year 6 students name printed on the back.

A separate notice has been distributed to all current year 5 students which include prices and the recommended size for your child, should you wish to place an order. (We will allow growth over the 12 month period).

I will be in the uniform shop tomorrow morning between 8.30 – 9.30am with samples for students to try on should any parent like to be present. Windcheaters will be delivered in 1st term next year. A second opportunity to purchase will be made available mid Term 1 2015.

All orders together with payment must be returned to the office by tomorrow, Friday 12th December. Absolutely no late orders for this round can be taken.

END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS CLASS PARTIES

As the year draws to a close, all classes usually celebrate with a class party. This is a fantastic way to socialise and enjoy the last few days we have left together.

As parents are aware, we have several children with severe ANAPHYLAXIS to peanuts, tree nuts such as walnuts, cashews etc, and egg. Anaphylaxis can be fatal.

It is therefore important to refrain from sending food items which can be fatally harmful to a child. Having no control over what their child eats at a party class party must be terrifying for families with a child diagnosed with ANAPHYLAXIS. Check the packaging labels for ingredients before purchase. If you are baking an item, include the list of ingredients used. This will eliminate confusion and will allow all children to safely ingest appropriate food products.

FOOD HANDLING

Bacteria are everywhere, but a few types like to crash parties. These bacteria cannot be smelled or tasted.

HEATED FOODS

- There are no facilities to warm foods at school, try to deliver foods just prior to the party.
- Follow the 2 hour rule: “foods should not sit at room temperature for more than 2 hours”.
- Thoroughly reheat frozen food before consumption.

COLD FOODS

- There are no facilities at school to keep foods refrigerated, try to deliver foods close to the start of the party.
- Chill foods properly before taking it out of the fridge to pack.
- Use insulated containers with ice bricks to keep food chilled.
- Foods such as cold meats, dips, soft cheeses and salads should be left in the fridge until ready for use.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- WASH HANDS THOROUGHLY WHEN PREPARING FOODS
- DO NOT PREPARE FOOD IF YOU ARE UNWELL OR HAVE GASTROENTERITIS
- COVER FOOD SECURELY
- COOK FOOD PROPERLY
- LABEL AND ATTACH INGREDIENT LIST
- USE CLEAN UTENSILS AND PLATES

“PREVENTION IS SAFE FOOD HANDLING”
**Year 6 Interschool Sport**

This Friday the 12th of December the year six students participate in their last interschool sport with round 9. Please see the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thomas Mitchell Blue</th>
<th>Vs. Doveton</th>
<th>Away</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Mitchell Gold</td>
<td>Vs. Berwick Chase Teal</td>
<td>Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Last Week Interschool Sport Results - Round 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAMS</th>
<th>Cricket</th>
<th>Volley stars</th>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Softball</th>
<th>Hockey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TMPS BLUE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleetwood</td>
<td>Winners</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Cricket</th>
<th>Volley stars</th>
<th>Basketball</th>
<th>Softball</th>
<th>Hockey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TMPS GOLD</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doveton</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**House Points - Results from Term 4 Week 10 2014**

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

**Total House Point Results for 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st</th>
<th>Fraser</th>
<th>1,580 Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Perkins</td>
<td>1,400 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Bradman</td>
<td>1,390 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
<td>1,370 Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have a great week!

Olivia Goder - Physical Education Teacher
PARENTS’ CLUB

Student Banking
We had 58 deposits this week which is not too bad for the second last week of term 4!!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the School Banking program this year. We have raised a considerable amount of money for the Parents Club which will go towards improvements to the school grounds.

Our last banking day for 2014 will be Wednesday 17th December, so remember to send your bank books in as usual.

We have ordered the Rewards requested in yesterday's banking, so hopefully they will arrive for delivery before the end of term. Any rewards ordered next week will most likely be delivered in Term 1 next year. All token balances at the end of this year will be carried forward to 2015.

OSHC service- 0415 326 328
Please note that the bookings that you have this year relating to OSHC, will carry over into 2015 unless you change them online or by calling the customer service team on 1300 105 343.

OSHC will start at 1:00 pm on the last day of school (19/12/2014)

Have a great week
Janice ☺
Our favourite memories in Prep 2014...

My Favourite Moment in Prep 2014

5/12/2014

My favourite part was when the book came and the butterflies were here and the parakeets! I like animals! My other favourite moment was investigations and also liked craft week and everything.

Abigail

My Favourite Moments in Prep 2014

My favourite thing in Prep 2014 was when it was the big day party! It was fun and we read book and did the pictures.

My Favourite Moments in Prep 2014

My Favourite Moments in Prep 2014

My Favourite Moments in Prep 2014

This year in Prep I liked everything because the days were fun and I liked learning about the Komodo Dragon and the Asian Elephant and learning about the Silent film and learning about the 18th of the 18th.

My Favourite Day of Prep was Melbourne Zoo and I saw a Tiger and a Central and Eastern Big-Tailed Bat. This is my favourite one.

My Favourite Colour was green and my super power was super-good reading.

My Favourite Days was Tuesday and Wednesday.

My Favourite Time was Elephant.
We also wrote narrative stories in Prep!