Dear Parents and Carers

Thankfulness seems to be the theme of this newsletter as I have so many thank yous to give and so much gratitude for the time and effort put into so many great things happening at MRMS.

Thank YOU to all those who have participated in some fantastic events at and for our School recently.

- Thank you to all of those students and parents who rode and walked on Ride to School Day. It was a beautiful morning and well attended this year.
- Thank you also to those parents who gave up their Saturday to serve brekky at the Markets last week. Your time and generosity is much appreciated.
- And finally thank you to all those who helped make Harmony Day such a beautiful and truly unique event. In all the schools I have worked and been involved with throughout my education career I can honestly say I have never been a part of such a globally minded and spirited School Community as we have here at MRMS. What a joy! Thank you to Daniela Tommasi and Ombeline Eckert for the photo’s and video footage.

Clean UP Australia Day Success – I thoroughly enjoyed accompanying Kate and the MP1 students over to the wetlands last week as part of our School’s contribution to Clean Up Australia Day. Junior Primary has taken care of our School grounds and Upper Primary participated in cleaning up on one of their recent bike riding days. MP2 will be spending some clean up time on the Rails to Trails at a later stage. We are all very proud of the students’ enthusiasm for caring for the land. You might be interested to know that MRMS was one of only 2 entities that registered for this event in the whole of the Margaret River area!

Parking - Due to recent drainage issues and information from the Shire regarding the safety of our temporary staff car park behind 0-3 the School Council and I have made the decision to close this car park until the drainage issue has been sorted and the area has been formally approved by the Shire for such use. Council has also approved the use of car parking for STAFF ONLY in front of MP. We cannot allow parents to use this for drop off or pick up because of the danger of reversing onto Clarke Rd during busy traffic times. It will only be used staff who are arriving well before 8:30am and leaving well after 3:30pm. Council is working with the Shire to rectify this matter.

Fire Education Sessions - We are very excited to welcome the MR Volunteer Fire Brigade to our school for information sessions and truck demonstrations on Thursday 3rd April. As well as being very exciting for the students this is a part of our responsibility to ensure our school is fire-ready. Parents and Carers, please feel welcome to join your child’s class in the Hall if you wish to attend: Junior Primary is 9am – 9.45am and Middle/Upper Primary is 10am – 11am.

Welcome - A big welcome to Karen Rebuck who has joined our staff as an EA in MP1 on Friday mornings. And of course Janine will continue to work Monday to Thursday as she has been.

Upper Primary Cape to Cape Success – Last week our dedicated senior Upper Primary students completely wowed the crowd at a symposium held to help secure future funding for the Cape to Cape Catchment Group. Tracey Muir of CCG was absolutely ecstatic with their presentation as you can see from the amazing testimonial we received below:

“...The students demonstrated a depth of knowledge, planning and scientific endeavour that thoroughly impressed the audience. They were articulate, clear, concise and most importantly passionate. The children helped convince everyone in attendance that children can have great insight and given an opportunity can achieve a lot…”

Tracey Muir Education Officer Cape to Cape Catchments Group

I would like to acknowledge Talliesen for the time and effort she has put in to preparing the students for this event.

Have a great few weeks.

Kind regards,
Lisa Fenton
Each Tuesday for the past 3 weeks we have been lucky enough to have been informed and entertained by Simon Walsh, Phoenix’s dad, with his huge collection of musical instruments from around the world. Our classroom has come alive with the sounds of Wave Drums, Mbeeras and synthesisers along with traditional instruments too. Simon has told the children fascinating stories about the origins of each instrument and how he came to have them in his possession. This has led to many interesting discussions in our classroom and we would like to thank Simon for his time and extending not only the children’s knowledge, but that of the staff and the lucky parents who were in the room to prepare Morning Tea on that day. We look forward to the following Tuesdays music sessions with anticipation. What will Simon bring in next?

Jan, Corinna, Sue and Trish

What a wonderful time was had by all who attended and participated in Harmony Day last week. The children’s costumes were amazing and they so enjoy discussing the various cultures and customs from around the world.

Children at this young age are very interested in learning about acceptance of others, peace and harmony.

We are lucky to witness this in our classrooms every day.

The children are quick to accept and befriend new students and they are happy to ‘buddy up’ and teach each other about the rules and routines at school.

On that note, we would like to welcome our newest student Jimmy McCartney and his family to our school!

Regards, Sue P, Sonja, Sue G and Denise

Hello everyone, Well the term is going very fast and the children have really settled well into their morning and afternoon cycles.

We have all enjoyed our ‘class picnics’ on Friday mornings.

We have eaten our morning tea on the veranda, under the gazebo and on the lawn area behind the office. These occasions have allowed the class as a whole group to enjoy conversations and sharing ideas together.

Please remember to read each day to your child and enjoy this time – find the time that is right for you both and a comfortable space to share that special time together.

Thanks to our parent helpers. The children love seeing parents in the classroom helping out.

Remember if you would like to book your observation, see Deb in the office.

Regards Raylene, Sue and Gayna

Hello everyone, thank you to everyone who helped make our Harmony Day celebration such a wonderful day. It is always such an exciting day for the children, and it was great to have you along to watch the parade and take part in the shared lunch.

Casa del Mare have been busy in preparation for Jump Rope for Heart coming up in April. We have had a demonstration at school by one of the Jump Rope for Heart team members and watched some pretty amazing skipping clips to get us inspired. Make sure you have your fundraising booklets and keep practising your skipping at home!

You may have noticed our beautiful new blinds out the front of our classroom.

These have created a great little space to work out the front of our class and provide us with some much needed shade in the afternoons, as well as privacy from the road.

Please help us to keep them in great condition by not leaning on them or letting little ones walk through the joins.

Casa Mare recently took part in Clean up Australia Day by heading over to the Wetland next to our school and picking up the rubbish that had made its way into this precious area.

It was great to see the children so excited about caring for our Wetland, ensuring that it is in pristine condition for when the rains begin to fall again.

Kate, Jasmine, Janine and Karen

Hello everyone, Thank you for a wonderful effort in helping your children dress up in clothes from their chosen country on Harmony Day. We enjoyed hosting the Kaigi with MP1 and think it was fantastic to hear songs from France, Morocco, Japan, and Africa as well as a special Harmony Day poem. Thank you also to all the parents and families who came along, it was fantastic to see so many visitors in our school.

The younger students have been exploring the Great Lessons and we will complete the fifth one, ‘The Story of Numbers’ this week. Some people have gone off on a tangent and have even bought in a stalactite for us to study.

There is work on crystals, caves and rivers going on, as well as study on ancient alphabets and civilisations.

We have been busy learning about different countries, although some of the children are now getting into learning about famous people from our own country. Do you know who is on our currency notes and coins? Well we are finding this out. We are also looking at the symbols of our own nation, especially our flags and the Coat of Arms. We hope to build a timeline of significant events in our countries history. We are looking at famous Australian poems and art works, and will be learning a few songs.

We do however have a sad farewell to say this week. Our friend Philemon and his Mum, Aurelie and Dad, Michel are leaving us to return to France. We will miss Philemon very much. It has been wonderful to watch him learn English! It really is amazing how well he can speak, spell and write in English! We have been entertained by his wonderful sense of humour and creative story writing!

But most of all, we have all become such wonderful friends, and that’s the part we will miss most of all. So farewell Philemon, Aurelie and Michel! Take care and keep in touch.

Don’t forget to write to us from time to time.

Keep smiling, Lee-Anne and Tilly

Last Friday Sasha, Tayla, Dillon and Remy were guest speakers at a Cape to Cape Catchment Group presentation. They were invited to speak about activities that our students have undertaken alongside with CCCG utilising our wetland. Topics covered included water sampling and macro invertebrate studies. The students also spoke about the meaning of catchment areas, the importance of preserving our waterways and the Confluence Day at Elenbrook House and the biodiversity studies they are undertaking. From this presentation, Margaret River Rotary has invited the students to speak at a Rotary meeting.

On Monday we enjoyed our second bike riding day for the year. The class rode to Rotary Park where we undertook biodiversity and local history studies. We thank parents Steve and Verelle, and Graham for helping out on the day.

Our class is rehearsing the National Anthem in preparation for our school Anzac Day ceremony to be held on Thursday 10th April. The school Choir will also be performing a song.
Update: School News and P&F News ….

Busy Bee Sunday 27th April
Please mark this morning in your diary. 9am to 12pm. We have a lot of work we wish to get done before winter sets in. A Busy Bee coordinator is required – if you are attending, this is a role you can do! It is probably one of the easiest too – directing people to jobs from the job list. Please let Deb know if you can help.

Parent Commitment Hours
Parents if you helped with Riding2School, Harmony Day, Breakfast Bar, Fashion Folly or any class event please remember to record your time before the end of this term. See Deb for ongoing jobs that you can do. Some jobs can be taken home if easier for you.

Maintenance Scholarship
The school has been lucky to have the multi skilled Michel Penot as our maintenance person for the past year. With the Penot family leaving us to return home to France a vacancy will exist as of term 2 for this position. Please make an appointment to see Sue McLeod if you are interested.

Harmony Day Costume Hire
Hiring Harmony Day costumes has been a success with many families choosing to use this service. This fundraising will be put towards Junior Primary playground upgrade. Please if you have not done so already, return your washed intact costume to Junior Primary.

ANZAC ceremony
Margaret River Montessori students will be representing the school at the Anzac Day parade and laying a wreath at the site.

P&F Committee
Thank you to everyone for attending the P&F meeting on Thursday 27 March at our new time of 9am. The next P&F meeting will be in Term 2, Week 2 on Thursday, 8 May. Our small school relies heavily on the P&F Committee to coordinate fundraising events, like the Art Auction, Cow Pat Lotto and the Cookbook to name a few. In 2013 these fundraising events have raised over $20,000, much of which has being put towards the Playground and the Carpark.

P&F Committee needs a Chair & Vice Chair for 2014.
Thank you to Helen Barling filling the Treasurer position and Linda Henry for filling the Secretary position. Without a Chair and Vice Chair role being filled there is no P&F Committee and our fundraising events are compromised. The P&F AGM is Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm. Please let the Front Office or Linda or Helen know if you are able to fill these positions or would like more information about the roles.

Fashion Folly 28 March
The Fashion Folly (clothing swap) is on tonight at 6pm – it’s not too late! Please come along at 6pm for a fun evening. Entry is $10, food will be provided and beverages will be on sale.

Cook Book Launch 3 April
Dany Angove, Head Chef at Leeuwin Estate Winery, will launch our Harmony Day Cookbook at the Margaret River Library on Thursday evening, 3 April at 6pm. We would love to see you all there.

We will be selling the cookbooks on the evening and would like to offer food from the recipes in the book. Please contact Caro Bannister if you are able to make your dish from the cookbook and/or if you can help on the evening. info@bellybean.com.au

Lions Garage Sale 12th April
The Margaret River Lions have invited MRMS to assist with their 12th April garage sale as a fundraiser for the school. All proceeds (approx. $2000) will go towards the Junior Primary playground upgrade. Parents are asked to please give 1 to 2 hours of their time on the following shifts: Monday 7th, Wednesday 9th, Friday 11th April to help in the shed with sorting or at any time from 9am to 12pm. Saturday 12th for a 2 hour shift from 8.30am to 12pm. At least 2 men are wanted from 8.30 for about an hour to help with furniture on the Saturday morning. There is a roster on the office door. This is a great easy fundraiser for us and will go towards your parent commitment hours.

Jump Rope for Heart
This is both a School annual fundraiser for the Heart Foundation and the valuable work they do and a healthy school initiative. Our Jump Rope for Heart program this year is well under way and we are practising for the Jump Off on the 4th April. Let's get those sponsors happening! A reminder the link to get started online is http://jumprope.everydayhero.com.au/event/JumpRope2014-MargaretRiverMontessoriSchool-100553. Glad to see some children have commenced.

All full time children would have received the optional fundraising form with guidelines. Remember this year our target is $1000 and being a 2014 trial school 50% of funds raised goes towards more playground equipment for the School. The students have some great ideas too!

If you can help out on the Jump Off day please leave your details with Deb or let me know.
Thanks for your support, Sue Gaunt

Class Mentors
JP1: Maria Hillman - hillmanbears@bigpond.com
JP2: Ann Noakes - haytrans@westnet.com.au
JP3: Charity Coffman - charitycoffman@gmail.com
MP1: Tilly Kelleher - tilly.k@mac.com
MP2: Renee Keesing - ren-163@hotmail.com
UP: Rachel Taylor woodvibes@westnet.com.au

School Council
As a very busy Term One draws to an end, our AGM is almost upon us.

With long standing School Council members reaching the end of their term, we welcome new people to come forward to take on the required roles.

Unlike the highly visible and engaging work of the P&F Committee, the School Council works behind the scenes with the Principal to keep our school functioning.

The AGM is the perfect opportunity to find out more about what the School Council does and we encourage as many people from the school community to attend the AGM at 7pm Wednesday 9th April.

If you would like to find out more about the School Councils there is an FAQ sheet for parents in the Office or feel free to contact the current Chairperson, Lauren, beetsonclan@bigpond.com

MRMS School Council

Like us on Facebook!
Montessori Margaret River Primary School is now on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/margaretrivermontessori

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Community Notices

New Irish Dance Classes for Kids
Susanne Heumann has taught and performed in professional Irish Dancing shows throughout Europe and is now opening the very first Irish Dancing school in the South-west!
Classes are every Monday starting 1st April from 4.30pm to 5.30pm at the Outloud Dance Studio, 25 Station Rd, Margaret River.
Every Wednesday 5pm - 6pm, 171 Woodbridge Vale, Yallingup.
To express your interest contact Susanne on 0412513866 or via email: Susanne.heumann@aol.de

Margaret River Netball Association
Last chance to register your child for netball 2014. Registration form is attached. Please have your form sent in asap or give to Raylene Field in JP3.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HEALTH
JOIN US AS JARED AUGER (GENERAL MANAGER OF daTERRA AUSTRALIA/ NEW ZEALAND) EXPLORES THE HEALING BENEFITS OF ESSENTIAL OILS. HE WILL SHARE INSIGHT ON HOW PURE ESSENTIAL OILS CAN BE USED FOR PHYSICAL AILMENTS, INJURIES AND STRESS MANAGEMENT.
daTERRA CERTIFIED PURE THERAPEUTIC GRADE ESSENTIAL OILS REPRESENT THE SAFEST, PUREST, AND MOST BENEFICIAL ESSENTIAL OILS AVAILABLE TODAY.

LEARN TO BE A HEALER IN YOUR OWN HOME!
JOIN US AT THIS FREE EVENT!

Thursday April 3rd, 2014
7.00pm - 9.00pm
Margaret River Cultural Centre
Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River

Jared Auger
Jared is responsible for growing the Australia market. During his eight years in the industry, he has led international market expansion through sales, marketing, and global logistics. He has a proven record of getting results by partnering with leaders throughout the world.

Helen Duke
Founder and Director of Indigo Spirit. Helen specialises in various Massage Therapies and other healing modalities. For the past 3 years Helen has practiced as an International Product Consultant for daTERRA, teaching Essential Oil classes, Aroma Touch Techniques and Aroma Balancing workshops throughout Australia and Indonesia.

Cat Cannizzaro
When not on retreat Cat can be found writing recipes for celebrity chef Pete Evans, personal chef to Super Food Guru Dashi White in 2013, writing recipes for magazines, teaching qualified chefs in raw food preparation and producing her own brand of raw organic chocolates under her label WillRaw.