

Monti Connect

Important Dates

25 September	KAIGI - Caring for Country
25 September	Students' last day
12 October	Pupil free day
13 October	Students' first day - Term 4
16 October	Kambarang Kin group activity
20 October	Our patch - Incursion
21 October	Community lunch - AP
23 October	Monti's Swap & Shop - formally Fashion Folly!
26 October	School Council meeting
28 October	Whole school photos
28 October	Land art project - AP
29 October	Graduation picnic - SS
Each week	Going out program - MP & UP
Each Mon after school	MTB 'In the Pines' ride - Yr 6 & AP
Each Tues before school	Martial arts fitness club
Term 4, Week 3	Next Monti Connect newsletter published



With deep gratitude, we remember a beloved teacher whose kindness, wisdom and dedication touched generations of children and left an enduring legacy within our school community



Vale to our Beautiful Rona



We would like to acknowledge the Wadandi / Pibulmun Traditional Owners of this land on which we live, work and play, and pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Monti Connect

Term Dates 2026 and 2027

Please note change of Pupil Free Day Term 4 2026 now Friday 13 /11/26

Term Dates 2026

Term 3 Student Dates: Monday 20/7/26 to Friday 25/9/26 (10 weeks)

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: none.

Term 4 Student Dates: Tuesday 13/10/26 to Thursday 10/12/26 (9 weeks). Office open until 18/12/26.

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: Friday 13/11/26 (Official Reporting Day). 

Term Dates 2027

Term 1 Student Dates: Monday 1/2/27 to Friday 9/4/27 - (10 weeks).

Office open from Monday 18/1/27.

Public Holidays: Monday 1/3/27 (Labour Day), Friday 26/3/27 (Good Friday), Monday 29/3/27 (Easter Monday).

Pupil Free Days within term: none.

Term 2 Student Dates: Tuesday 27/4/27 to Friday 2/7/27 (10 weeks).

Public Holidays: Monday 7/6/27 (WA Day).

Pupil Free Days within term: TBC (Official Reporting Day).

Term 3 Student Dates: Monday 26/7/27 to Friday 24/9/27 - (9 weeks).

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: none.

Term 4 Student Dates: Tuesday 12/10/27 to Thursday 9/12/27 (9 weeks).

Office open until 17/12/27.

Public Holidays: none.

Pupil Free Days within term: TBC (Official Reporting Day).

Monti Connect

Extended Day News

Continuing Our Land Art Journey

Following on from our recent land art projects with Nan Viv, Mitchella and Land Artist Elaine Clocherty, our Extended Day students have continued exploring their creativity through nature.

Using natural materials found around them, the children created their own land art pieces, experimenting with patterns, shapes and textures while sharing ideas and working together. It has been wonderful to see their learning continue to grow from these experiences.



Monti Connect

Junior Primary News

Over the past three weeks, Junior Primary has been immersed in a wonderful range of experiences that have encouraged curiosity, discovery and a deeper connection with the world around us.

As part of our Digital Technologies lessons, the children have been creating a bird-watching chart featuring local birds found in our area. Along the way, they have been learning to identify and name each bird, while also discovering their Noongar names. This has provided a meaningful opportunity to explore local Indigenous language and culture, while nurturing an interest in zoology and the natural environment. Extending this learning into Practical Life, the children have enjoyed twitching (bird watching), carefully observing the birds around our school. Each sighting is recorded using a tally, bringing together observation, data collection and early mathematical thinking in a purposeful and engaging way.

With great care and pride, the children prepared their Father's Day gifts. They thoroughly enjoyed creating something special for their dads and loved ones, and we hope all our fathers and father figures had a wonderful day and enjoyed their chocolate balls!

Excitement is building as Kaigi draws closer, with Junior Primary proudly hosting the Caring for Country Kaigi this term. It has been wonderful to witness the children's confidence grow as they become familiar with their lines, practise together and prepare to speak in front of an audience. Their enthusiasm, commitment and growing sense of pride have been a joy to see. We hope you can join us and share in this special experience with your child.

Exploration of natural materials has also featured strongly in the children's learning. Working collaboratively, they collected materials from the environment and constructed structures designed to withstand wind. Their creations were put to the test using a blower, allowing the children to observe, problem-solve and make adjustments to strengthen their designs. You may still discover some of these impressive structures around the Junior Primary playground.



Monti Connect

Junior Primary News

Meanwhile, our classroom tadpoles have continued to inspire fascination, care and responsibility. The children have taken great pride in observing their development and helping to care for their changing environment. Each Friday afternoon, we carefully refresh their habitat by scooping out the water and returning leaves, grasses, honkey nuts and branches to the wetland. Fresh natural materials are then collected, providing oxygen, nutrients and food for the growing tadpoles. The children have been delighted to notice their tadpoles growing larger and beginning to develop tiny hind legs — a beautiful, real-life zoology experience unfolding right before them.

As Djilba continues to bring us its magical weather, we hope you all enjoy the beauty of the season and have a safe, happy and restful holiday.



Monti Connect

Middle Primary News

As term three draws to a close, we reflect on the progress made so far this year and make plans for the final term of 2026. Our Year 3 students are showing real signs of leadership and community as they begin to look towards Upper Primary. They have been relishing the experience of being the leaders in the Middle Primary community and have been doing a wonderful job assisting and guiding the younger students in the class.

Recently, our older children have been exploring the classification of life. In particular, the phyla that make up the Animal Kingdom. The diversity of life on Earth is an endless source of wonder and students always marvel at some of the more 'weird and whacky' life forms that are out there! From echinoderms to porifera, molluscs to chordates, the diversity is astounding with several million different species existing on Earth. This sort of cultural work leads to what we refer to as 'Big Work' in Montessori – work that is driven by the interests of the child and is often expansive in scope or delves into great detail. This takes the form of booklets, charts, posters and is often a multi-staged process involving a spark of curiosity, research, planning, editing, illustrating and publishing. Our younger children have been exploring landforms through 3-part cards and building using modelling clay. Recently, large maps of Australia and the world have been covered in sticky notes that labelled the different landforms the children could identify.

In Writing, children have been working on persuasive texts and poetry, focusing on nature poems as part of a national poetry competition run by Red Room Poetry that plants a tree for every poem written and entered by a student. This has certainly added motivation to an already popular subject! Poetry has proved a wonderful avenue for children to explore their own voice, sense of humour and creativity.

In Geometry, creative constructive drawing has provided an opportunity for the children to explore measurement and fine motor skills in an artistic manner. It has also proven to be very engaging for them.

We look forward to our final term together as a Middle Primary and class cohort before we start welcoming new faces and farewelling the old.



Monti Connect

Upper Primary News

Inter School Cross Country

Last Friday, a group of our Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 students travelled to the Dunsborough District Club to represent MRMS at the Interschool Cross Country.

We were incredibly proud of the way every student represented our school. Each runner gave the race their very best effort, and every single student crossed the finish line! Whether they were at the front of the pack, somewhere in the middle, or bringing it home at the back, the support for one another was wonderful to see.

There was an amazing sense of camaraderie amongst our Monty students throughout the day. Whenever one of our runners came down the final stretch towards the finish line, they were greeted by a huge cheer from their teammates. Placings didn't matter; effort, determination and having the courage to keep going were what we celebrated. While Montessori education does not place competition at the centre of children's learning, healthy competition can provide valuable opportunities for children to challenge themselves, develop resilience and discover what they are capable of. The emphasis is not simply on beating somebody else, but on personal growth, perseverance and striving to do your own best, while continuing to support and celebrate those around you.

Cross country provided a wonderful example of this in action. Running a long-distance race takes determination and the ability to keep pushing when your legs are tired and your brain is telling you to stop. It takes courage to put one foot in front of the other and go that extra mile, and every one of our students demonstrated this on the day. Congratulations to all of our runners for their fantastic effort, positive attitude and wonderful team spirit. You represented Monty beautifully, and we were very proud of you all!



Monti Connect

Adolescent Program News



Some of the amazing stalls, activities and performances!



Monti Connect

Adolescent Program News

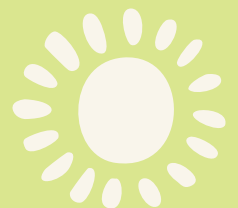
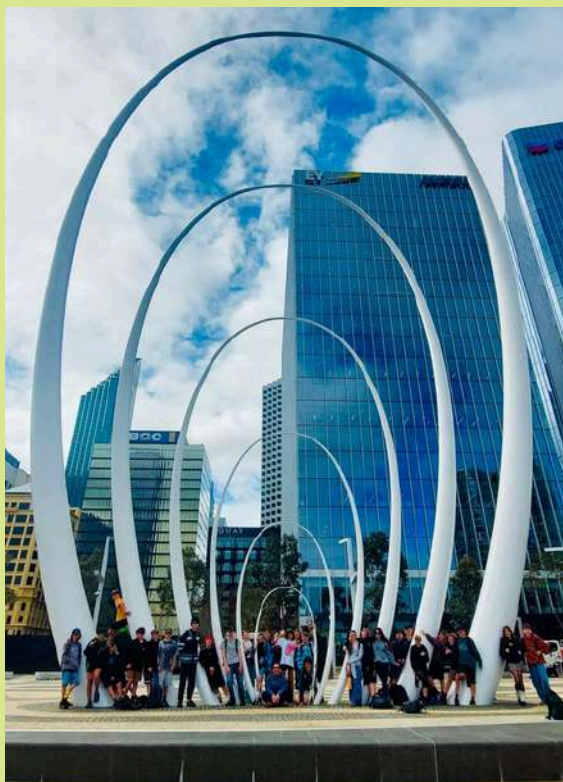
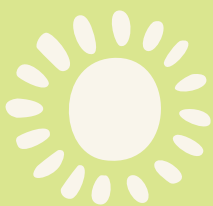
Councillor for a Day

Our students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in “Councillor for a Day” at the Shire. Students from the AP attended the program and gained an insight into the important role local government plays in supporting our community. Students also had the opportunity to talk about our Whole Community Wellbeing Plan and share their ideas about wellbeing in our community. The day received excellent feedback from students, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Middle School Camp

Middle School Camp was an absolute hit! Margaret River took on Perth and spent a week exploring what the city has to offer. A few of the many amazing moments included our visits to Sci Tech, Perth Zoo and Freemantle Prison, commuting by train, and of course, a movie at the theatres to cap off an amazing week.

We want to thank our adolescents for an excellent camp. We appreciated the respect, resilience, curiosity and independence they demonstrated.



Monti Connect

Adolescent Program News

Pottery Lessons



Our AP students have been getting their hands muddy through an exciting exploration of clay. From searching for clay in the earth around them, to learning pottery techniques and hand-building their own creations with a local potter, the students have been learning through hands-on experience. Their journey has now extended to building their very own primitive kiln, breaking down recycled mud bricks, mixing them with water and hay to create the materials needed. We can't wait to fire it up next term and see what they have created!



Monti Connect

Physical Education News

Primary Sports Day Carnival

Our Primary students enjoyed a fantastic day of movement, fun and connection at our Sports Day Carnival. It was wonderful to see the children getting involved, challenging themselves, celebrating their personal bests and encouraging one another throughout the day.



Monti Connect

French Language News

Songs, stories and shared experiences are at the heart of our French program!

They give students meaningful, memorable ways to hear, use and enjoy French — building language naturally through rhythm, repetition, imagination and connection.

In Junior Primary:

Students continue to delight in learning new songs and listening to new stories. These familiar routines create wonderful opportunities to develop vocabulary, pronunciation and confidence, while making French learning fun!

At the Primary Campus:

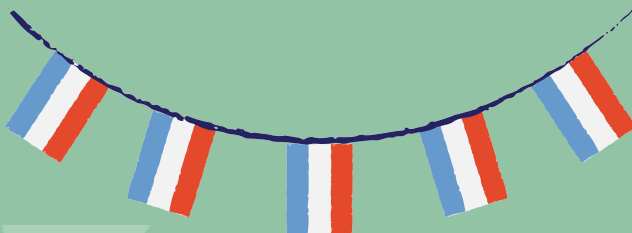
Our students are also continuing their exciting work on the TOFAWA Sticker Challenge 2026, creating and engaging with French in creative ways.

At the Metricup Campus:

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the Open Day Fete & Sundowner where our French learning was on display. Come and discover our work exploring “Did you know Western Australia could have been French?” and take a look at some of the wonderful French picture books created by students in Term 2.

As we head into the break, **merçi** for another wonderful term of curiosity, creativity and French learning. Wishing everyone a restful and rejuvenating holiday!

We can't wait to see everyone back in Term 4 for more songs, stories, discoveries — and plenty of **joie de vivre!**



Monti Connect

Wellbeing News



Thank you to all parents and caregivers who have returned their consent forms for My Mind Check.

My Mind Check is a free, evidence-based digital tool funded by the Australian Government to help schools monitor and support children and adolescents' social, psychological and physical wellbeing. The platform provides real-time insights into student mental health and wellbeing, along with immediate access to practical, evidence-based resources. My Mind Check has also been recognised by the Anti-Bullying Rapid Review as an evidence-based tool for early intervention.

We are excited to be rolling out this program in Term 4. Our first My Mind Check will take place during Week 2, with a second check-in occurring in Week 7.

What will this look like?

Students will participate in brief, supervised check-ins lasting approximately 10–15 minutes. They will answer simple, age-appropriate questions about their mental health and wellbeing.

The platform uses a traffic-light system to provide an overall indication of how a student may be coping:

-Green: Coping well

-Amber: Potentially vulnerable

-Red: Potentially struggling

Schools receive immediate insights, allowing us to identify students who may benefit from additional support.

Who will have access to this information?

Lisa Fenton (Principal) and Tessa Vincent (Wellbeing Officer) will have access to the school-wide traffic-light information.

Importantly, students' responses to specific questions are never shared with anyone. Research has suggested that the process of completing regular check-ins can, in itself, promote student voice and contribute to positive wellbeing outcomes.

The information allows us to better understand each individual student while also providing data-driven insights to inform and guide our school wellbeing initiatives and programs.

Tessa Vincent will share relevant information with each teacher about their students.

What happens after a check-in?

Students who are identified as potentially vulnerable or potentially struggling will receive a follow-up check-in from an adult who has a strong and supportive relationship with them.

If a student is flagged as potentially vulnerable or potentially struggling, parents and caregivers will be notified by email by Tessa Vincent. Families will also be provided with evidence-based resources and information to help support their child.

Why is this important?

The check-in provides an opportunity for students to share how they feel they are going with their mental health and wellbeing.

It also helps us better understand the experiences of our students and provides an opportunity to share information and resources that may help caregivers understand and support their child.

We look forward to using My Mind Check as another tool to strengthen the wellbeing support we provide to our students.

If you have any more questions, please contact Tessa Vincent at wellbeing@margmont.wa.edu.au.

Thank you for your continued support of our students' wellbeing.

Monti Connect

Wellbeing News

Year 6 Transition

On 1 September, our Year 6 students took part in a Transition session run by Headspace Margaret River to help them prepare for the next exciting chapter of their schooling journey. Students engaged positively in the session and shared excellent feedback. It was a wonderful opportunity to talk about change, expectations and the exciting opportunities that come with moving into the next stage of their education.

R U OK? Day

We celebrated R U OK? Day with a simple but meaningful reminder that asking someone how they are can make a big difference. Each student received a flower as a reminder to check in with one another and to let someone know if they are not okay.

Students in the MP and UP enjoyed an icy pole, while our AP students celebrated together with cupcakes and a morning tea. It was a lovely opportunity to connect, enjoy each other's company and reinforce the important message that we are never alone and it's always okay to ask, "Are you OK?"



Monti Connect

Inclusive Education News

Newsletter

2026 - Term 3, Week 10



For the past two terms, a group of Year 3 students from Peppermint and Melaleuca have been working hard on getting Going Out vests for the school. They led the whole process from designing prototypes and calling Southern WorkWear to book an initial meeting to then meeting with the school Business Manager to propose their ideas and ask for permission to proceed. After all the planning and meetings, the students finalised the order with Southern WorkWear and have now been able to collect the vests and see all their efforts made into a reality!



Monti Connect

KAIGI



Caring for Country

Hosted By Junior Primary

All JP, MP and UP families are warmly invited to join us as we come together to celebrate the end of term, our children and our connection to Country.

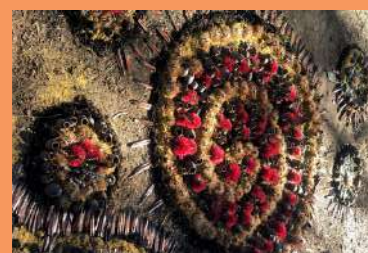
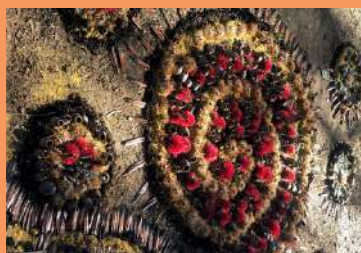
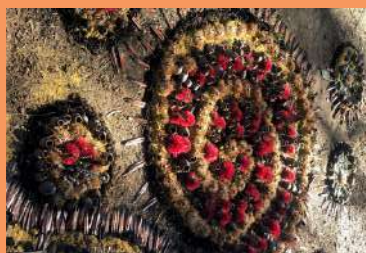
- Each class will share a special performance
- Year 6 will share their “Our Patch” Presentation from the recent event at the Heart
- A celebration of learning, community and Caring for Country

We look forward to sharing this special afternoon with our families and celebrating the wonderful work of our students.

Date: Friday 25th September

Time: 1.45pm

Location: Margaret River Campus Hall



Monti Connect

Fundraising News

Making a difference

A wonderful effort from our students and community!



The **Upper Primary Bake Sale** raised **\$148.64**, with the full amount donated to **Nature Conservation Margaret River**, supporting its work to protect and restore the natural environment and biodiversity of the Margaret River region.



The **Indigenous Literacy Book Swap** raised **\$158.45**, with the full amount donated to the **Indigenous Literacy Foundation**, helping children in remote Australia access books and stories in First Languages.

Our **Jump Rope for Heart** students raised an incredible **\$4,000**, with the full amount donated to the **Heart Foundation** to help educate people and fund research to prevent and manage heart disease into the future.



Monti Connect

Community News



After a two-year hiatus, **Fashion Folly** is back - refreshed, rebranded, and ready for its glow-up as 'Monti's Swap + Shop'!

Join us on **Friday 23rd October** for Margaret River's biggest Women's Fashion Swap & Shop! Simply donate 5 items and swap them for 5 new favourites. There will be drinks, nibbles, prizes and, of course, the chance to snap up some fabulous fashion gems. We're aiming for a relaxed, fun-filled evening - the perfect excuse for a night out with friends.

PRE-EVENT

Donate a minimum of 5 quality pre-loved clothing items or accessories and receive 5 FREE items on the night.

Drop-offs: Montessori Primary Campus Admin By: 19/10/2026

ON THE NIGHT

Kick things off with a complimentary drink on arrival and automatic entry into our door prize draw.

Then it's time for the high-energy Fashion Rush - where you'll snap up your 5 free items.

After that, keep the style coming:

- Fill a bag for just \$10
- Shop heavily discounted, brand-new designer pieces
- Enjoy a relaxed, social atmosphere with drinks available at the bar, a delicious grazing table to snack on, and plenty of fun games throughout the evening.
- Don't miss our brand new 'win win raffle' - \$10 for a ticket and a guaranteed prize! Prizes include incredible experiences, luxury items, artwork, dining, massage vouchers, local wines, and so much more.

How can you help?

- Buy a ticket to get the ball rolling - then share, share, share the link far and wide!
- Donate at least five clothing items to the school office - the sooner, the better!
- Have something you could offer for the raffle? Get in touch!
- Fancy joining the committee or running a few errands to earn your engagement hours? Please get in touch with Alex Harris (via the school Whatsapp)

It promises to be a brilliant evening of getting together and growing the wonderful community spirit that Monti is all about.

Monti Connect

Community News


Parents & Friends Association

Fashion Folly returns as...

MONTI'S SWAP + SHOP






Clothing swap, games,
drinks & prizes






\$25 TICKET

INCLUDES FREE
DRINK, DOOR
PRIZE ENTRY,
NIBBLES + TAKE
HOME 5 ITEMS

DONATE 5 + TAKE 5
FASHION PIECES

FRIDAY
23 OCT 2026

6 PM - 9 PM

MARGARET RIVER
MONTESSORI SCHOOL HALL





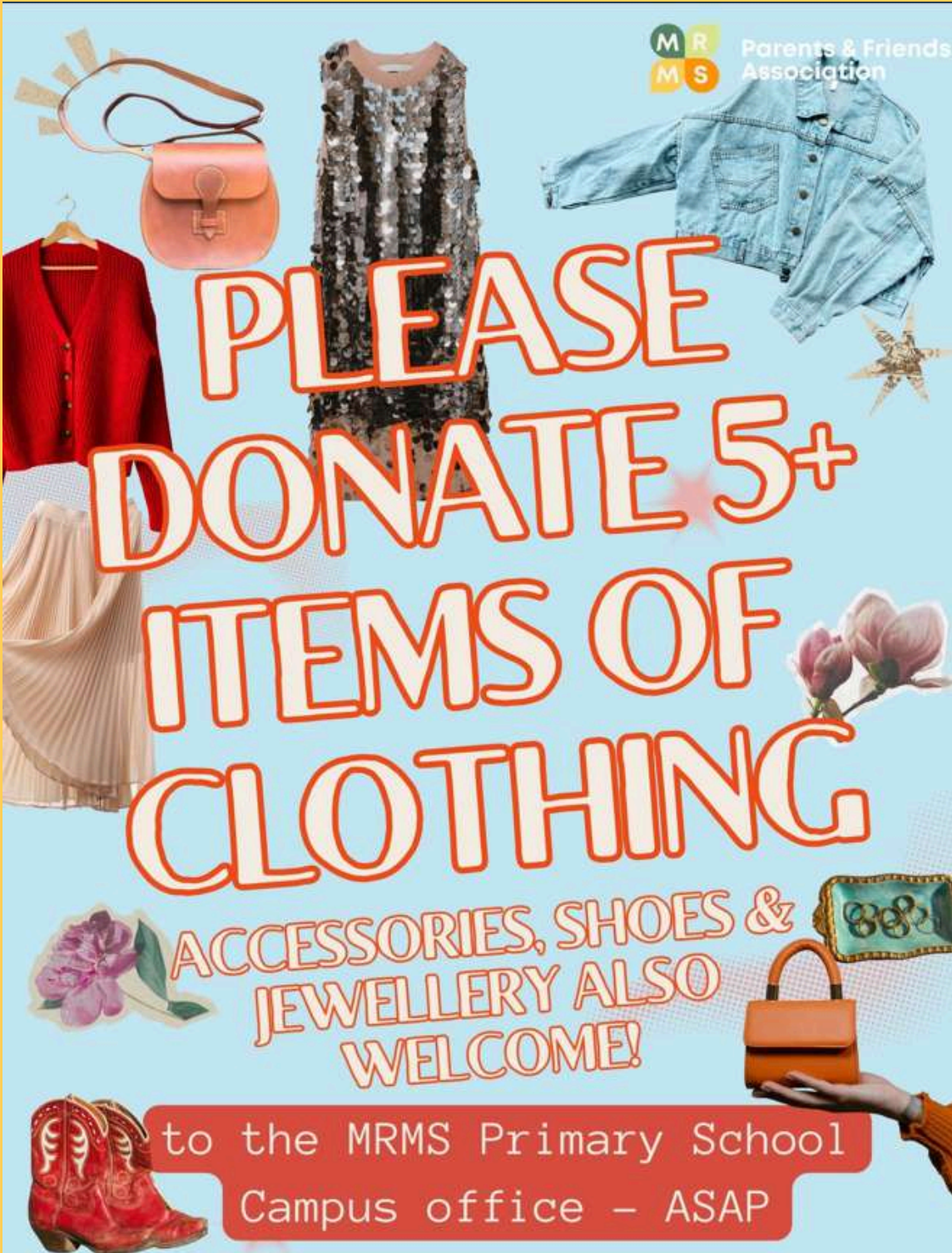
**Margaret River
Montessori**
SCHOOL | EST 1993

*Education in harmony
with life*

(08) 9757 2564 • www.margmont.wa.edu.au
Primary School
 4-6 Clarke Road, Margaret River, Western Australia 6285 • montessori@margmont.wa.edu.au
Adolescent Program
 62 Harman Mill Road, Mettup, Western Australia 6280 •
montessoriap@margmont.wa.edu.au

Monti Connect

Community News



MRMS Parents & Friends Association

**PLEASE
DONATE 5+
ITEMS OF
CLOTHING**

**ACCESSORIES, SHOES &
JEWELLERY ALSO
WELCOME!**

**to the MRMS Primary School
Campus office – ASAP**

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SCHOOL | EST 1993

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Monti Connect

Community News

Register or update your School Bus WA registration



If you have recently moved house,
started with us or are moving campuses,
please remember to register or update
your registration with School Bus WA



Moved house?

Update your
registration with your
new address



New to MRMS?

Register for
school
bus services



Moving campuses?

Ensure your
registration is updated
for your new campus



Even if there isn't currently a service for your area...

We encourage you to still register your interest!
The more families who register for a particular area, the more likely
it is that School Bus WA will introduce a bus service to that area



How to register or update

- 1 Visit the School Bus WA website: www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au or scan the QR code
- 2 'Apply for Transport Assistance' or 'Update your details' - note that processing can take up to 15 workings days

Please review School Buses WA website or reach out to them directly for any further information, updates or application support



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Monti Connect

Community News



**Invitation to our
EMA Waatu Kaatajiin Night**

**An evening
of stories,
Science
art, song
and dance
celebrating
our beloved
Sea Country**

**Wongi Waatu Gulyarra
Talking Oceans Together**

You are warmly invited to come and share our Kulanga Wongi Gulyarra (Children's Sea Council), Waatu (Ocean) journey.

Together, we're bringing stories of connection and care for Waatu Boodja (Sea Country) to life through learning and experiences with Marine Scientists, Cultural Custodians and Artists in connection with our local Educational Marine Area.

Did you know?...
... That some flowers can tell us when Mammung (whales) are near?
... That Mammung have songs of their own? ...
...and more!

...We'd also love you to wear something that connects you to the ocean ! :)

 The Heart, Margaret River
 Thursday 15 October 2026
 Show starts at 5:45
(Paella dinner 5:00 pm)
kids \$10 adults \$15

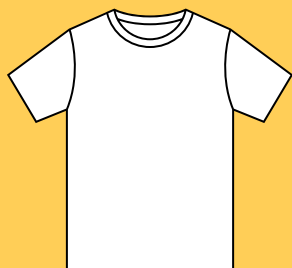


<https://events.humanitix.com/wongi-waatu-gulyarra-talking-oceans-together>

Monti Connect

Community News

Lost Property - Overflowing!



Please note that our Lost Property Tub located outside the Margaret River Primary Campus is **OVERFLOWING** with loads of wonderful clothes, especially jumpers! Please come and take a look before the end of Term as the left over items will be donated to charity over the school holidays.

THANK YOU!

VacSwim

Fun swimming lessons over the school holidays. Enrol now!



SHAKE DOWN STUDIO x **HIP HOP 101**
PRESENTS

BEATLAB x HIPHOP101

FREE SCHOOL HOLIDAY MUSIC WORKSHOPS
CREATE • WRITE • RECORD • PERFORM

DOWNSYDE
3 DAYS OF MUSIC WORKSHOPS + LIVE SHOWCASE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN, CREATE & PERFORM WITH WA HIP-HOP LEGENDS.

PERFORMANCE & MENTORING BY
DOWNSYDE

FACILITATED BY
DAZASTAH
ROB SHAKER
COZ LAKE

DAY 1 AGES 15-17 WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPT 2026	DAY 2 AGES 12-14 THURSDAY 1ST OCT 2026	DAY 3 AGES 10-11 FRIDAY 2ND OCT 2026	SPECIAL YOUTH SHOWCASE FRIDAY 2ND OCT 2026 THE RIVER, MARGARET RIVER
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MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

FOR MORE INFO: rah@shakedownstudio.com.au

This project is supported through funding from the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Community Development and Events Grants Program.

Monti Connect

Community News

First Focus EARLY INTERVENTION

FREE
8 week program
for families in
Margaret River!

Do you have concerns about
your child's development?

Give them the skills and confidence
they need to start pre-school.

Our specialised 8 week school-readiness program, First Focus, is **now available free for Margaret River families**. The program aims to ease the transition to kindergarten or pre-primary for children with developmental delays and learning difficulties.

The program familiarises children with classroom settings and routines, encourages social interactions, and supports the development of essential skills to ensure a strong start to their educational journey.



Group Sessions

8 week period group sessions are facilitated by a qualified therapist in a play-based therapy space.



Parent & Family Support

Actively engage in the program through education, resources, and ongoing support.



Assessments

Individual assessments identify skills, detail progress and outline key recommendations.

Is my child eligible?

First Focus is for children who:

- ✓ Are 3.5-5 years
- ✓ Have learning difficulties or developmental delays
- ✓ Are not accessing the NDIS or government-funded therapy
- ✓ Are not attending full time school

First Focus is made possible with generous support from Telethon.

All applications will be reviewed by an allied health professional to determine eligibility.

Apply Now for Term 4 in Margaret River



Scan the QR code to apply
1300 135 373
therapyfocus.net.au/first-focus

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
telethon

**Therapy
Focus**

LR 260923

Monti Connect

Community News



KIDS CLUB

Kids Club

Vacation Care Program

Have you planned your spring school holiday adventures and activities yet?

Our October Kids Club Holiday Program is bursting with fun for children aged 4–12 years, running 7am – 5.30pm each day. Bookings are now open!

Activities include:

- Pyjama party and pamper day
- Silent disco & dress-up party
- Rotary Park playground & sausage sizzle
- Movies at the Margaret River HEART
- Become a Lego master on Lego day
- Hone your soccer skills on LJ soccer day
- Explore Mammoth Cave on a guided tour
- Taste test & create food on MasterChef day
- Inflatable aqua run & pool time at the Rec Centre
- Books, songs & storytelling at the Library
- Simmos ice cream & mini golf day
- Puppet show (Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge) at the Margaret River HEART



Check out the full program & enrol here:
recreation.amrshire.wa.gov.au/childcare/vacation-care/

SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER
RECREATION CENTRE



Rotary Club of Margaret River

QUIZ NIGHT

TABLES OF 6 | \$15/PERSON

DOORS OPEN AT 6.00PM FOR 6.30PM START
 @ MARGARET RIVER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
 Follow the signs for parking

**MONDAY
26TH OCTOBER 2026**

BYO DRINKS, GLASSES & NIBBLES
 Please bring gold coins for Heads and Tails and other fun activities.

Have a fun night full of Challenges, Prizes, Raffle & Silent Auction

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!
<https://www.trybooking.com/DOEWQ>



Monti Connect

Community News



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

FAUNA NOTES

Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues

Identification and Distribution

The Australian magpie *Cracticus tibicen* (or *Gymnorhina tibicen*) is a large butcherbird with a black head, body, wing tips and tail tip with patches of white. The bill is blue-grey in colour, the legs are black and the eyes are brown. Males have a white nape, whereas females have a grey nape. Magpies are characterised by strong, rich and varied carolling.

The Australian magpie occurs throughout much of Australia, including bushland, farmland towns and other urban areas. Two of Australia's five sub-species occur in Western Australia: the western magpie *Cracticus tibicen dorsalis* occurs in the south-west and the black-backed magpie *Cracticus tibicen tibicen* is found in the central and northern regions. These two subspecies interbreed where their ranges meet. Refer to www.naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au to find further information on the species distribution.



Photo: P. Courtis/DBCA

Behaviour

The diet of the Australian magpie includes some plant material, but consists mainly of small animals that are found on the ground, including beetles, ants, spiders, lizards, frogs and carrion. They have very good hearing which allows them to locate lawn beetle larvae. They also eat other garden and farm pests and are valued as natural pest control agents.

Magpies breed between August and October and at least 2-3 ha (0.02-0.03km²) of territory is needed for pairs to successfully raise young. The female selects the nest site, which is usually in a tall tree, and constructs the nest from sticks lined with grass, roots and other fibres. Up to 6 eggs are laid and a new clutch may be laid if the first brood fails. The female incubates the eggs for about three weeks and feeds the chicks for about four weeks. Young magpies are forced to leave the territory by their parents within two years. They then join another group or take over a territory as part of an adult breeding pair. The young are vulnerable and many die within the first months of independence due to poor weather conditions, lack of food, road hazards and natural predators.

Magpies have a complex social structure and form tribes and flocks. Tribes consist of 2-10 birds of both sexes, which defend a territory of up to 8 ha (0.08km²). They vigorously defend this territory against other magpies because this is the area in which they obtain their food, build nests and rear their young. Flocks consist of birds that are young or too old to breed and are unable to form a tribe or gain access to a territory. These birds live in areas that do not contain sufficient water, feeding or nesting resources. The flock is nomadic as it moves from place to place in search of food.

Environmental Law

All fauna native to Australia, including fauna that naturally migrates to Australia, are afforded protection under both State and Commonwealth legislation.

Depending on the type of fauna-related activity, a licence issued by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions may be required. It is an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure, trade, keep or move them unless authorised by a permit. To obtain a licence, the applicant needs to demonstrate that all reasonable non-lethal methods have been attempted and environmental impacts have been assessed. Further information is available on the Department's website.

Magpie-Human Interactions

Magpies swoop to protect eggs and young from potential predators during the nesting season. They rely largely on intimidation to deter human intruders by flying low and fast, often clacking their bill as they pass overhead. The sound of their wings whistling past and the movement of air can be alarming, but is usually just a bluff.

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Community News

FAUNA NOTES – Magpies – Swooping and Safety Issues

Like dogs, magpies seem to sense fear and may capitalise on this by pressing on with harassing any perceived threat. Occasionally, a magpie will actually strike an intruder on the head with its bill. While such strikes are rare, magpies can inflict serious injuries. Information collected at hospital emergency departments has shown that the eye was the most common target. Magpies are more likely to swoop cyclists and postal workers.

If you find a sick or injured magpie contact the [Wildcare Helpline](#) on (08) 9474 9055 for information on registered wildlife rehabilitators and centres who can assist you with your enquiry.

Reducing the risk from swooping magpies

If you have problems with a swooping magpie, several avenues of action are open to you. Keep in mind that the birds swoop only during the nesting and rearing period (from August to October) and each bird generally only swoops for a few weeks during this time. If we can understand the catalysts and the patterns of magpie behaviour, we can greatly reduce the risk.

Living safely with magpies

The following steps can be followed to avoid or reduce the impact of a swooping magpie:

- Never deliberately provoke or harass a magpie. Throwing sticks or stones usually makes them more defensive. Magpies have good memories and they may continuously swoop a potential aggressor.
- Avoid areas where magpies are known to swoop. Remember, magpie hostility lasts only a few weeks and they usually only defend a small area of about 100m radius around their nest.
- Locate the bird and keep watching it when entering its territory. If it swoops, don't crouch in fear or stop: move on quickly but don't run.
- If you are riding a bike make sure you wear a helmet, and dismount and walk through nesting magpie territory.
- Wear a hat and sunglasses or carry an umbrella for protection. Magpies initially attack from behind but can swoop back around.
- Adopt a confident stance as this can have a strong deterrent effect.

Remember that the magpies are just trying to protect their young. Learning to live alongside wildlife is an important step towards building a better living environment, and observing and listening to magpies can be an enjoyable experience.

Taking a bird or nest from the wild is illegal without a permit and while such actions may temporarily stop attacks, it is not uncommon for another nesting bird to move in. It is better to avoid the area or live with the swooping bird for six to eight weeks until the chicks learn to fly and the problem ceases.

Citation

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For more information see the department's website www.dbca.wa.gov.au



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Community News



Department of
Education

The WA Student Assistance Payment

Money to get things
for your kids.

\$150

For each Kindergarten
and primary school student

\$250

For each secondary
school student

If you're a parent or carer of school-aged kids, you can claim the third round of the WA Student Assistance Payment.

This is money to help you get things for your kids.

This can include:

- new school shoes
- backpacks
- sports gear
- uniforms
- food

All WA school kids from Kindergarten to Year 12 can get it if they are enrolled at school.

You will need your kid's 8-digit WA Student Number to claim. Go to your kid's school if you need help to find the number.

Claim now

You can claim through the ServiceWA app, online at www.education.wa.edu.au/wasap or by sending in a claim form.

Claims close

Friday 25 September 2026

For more information about the WA Student Assistance Payment and how to claim, go to education.wa.edu.au/wasap

Claim on the
ServiceWA app



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A Final Thought...

As Term 3 draws to a close, we can pause and reflect on just how much this term has held. It has been a season of movement, discovery, celebration and connection — with camps, excursions and incursions, music, our Quiz Night, Interschool Sports, Sports Day, Open Day and so many wonderful moments shared across our community.

And while there has been much to celebrate, this term has also brought a time of deep sadness with the passing of one of our much-loved former teachers. In a Montessori community, we know that the relationships we form and the lives we touch become part of a much bigger journey. A teacher's influence does not end when they leave the classroom; it lives on in the memories, confidence, curiosity and hearts of the children they have guided.

Perhaps this is one of the beautiful things about our community — that through all the busyness of school life, it is the people and the connections between us that remain at the heart of what we do.

As we step into the holidays, may we take a moment to slow down, breathe, reconnect and appreciate the small moments that so often become the ones we remember. The quiet conversations, muddy feet, shared laughter, curious questions and simple joy of being together.

Thank you to our children, families, staff and wider community for being part of our journey this term.

May the holidays bring time for rest, renewal and connection, and may we return for Term 4 ready to continue growing, learning and walking this journey together.



Let's keep in touch!



**Margaret River
Montessori**
SCHOOL | EST 1993



Erdkinder
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