From the Principal

The end of the year is fast approaching and as I reflect on 2011, I am once again thrilled at what the children and staff members have achieved at Mount View Primary School. National and state titles have been gained across a number of areas, individuals and teams have stretched and challenged themselves, social service has been at the forefront of student initiatives and community spirit has thrived and flourished at our wonderful school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parent community for the financial assistance that they have provided to the school throughout 2011. I think that schools are always eager to gain the financial support from parents but at times don’t inform the community of how these funds have been used to improve facilities and programs. This year we once again received donations towards the Library Trust Fund, Building Trust Fund and Grounds Maintenance Fund. We also raised money at our major fundraising events: The 27th Annual Art Show and the School Carnival. In addition, the Parents’ Association has had a busy year and has run a number of events that have contributed to the development of ‘community’, as well as raise funds for particular projects.

Here is just a snapshot of some of the projects that have been initiated and supported by your generosity. The Parents’ Association and the Library Trust Fund donations have allowed us to complete the revitalisation of our Library/Resource Centre. We have installed new shelving that is moveable and provides the opportunity to change the learning spaces within this area. Books are more visible and accessible to the children and new display shelves promote new reading and resource material. We have also purchased new blinds and carpet, changed the colour schemes as well as introduced new interactive technologies including screens in the library and foyer area. Many new reading and literacy resources have been purchased and the library has become a real hub for children’s learning.

The Building Trust Fund has allowed us to complete additional pathways around the new building and a new sandpit was built in the junior playground. The major project for the year was the development of the new junior school toilet facilities and they look fantastic. The Building Fund donations have been utilised to support this major building works which includes services for students with specific needs.

The Annual Art show made a profit of $12,764 and the Year 6 art project was funded by this event. We have also been able to purchase additional staging and now have a stage that is large enough to be used for our year level concerts, performance evenings, recitals and the Year 6 Exhibition.

The Carnival has been established to create a sense of community and this is the main purpose and function of this event. However, we also made a profit of $18,000 and this money is going to be used to purchase more of the large outdoor chess sets, along with the creation of outdoor chess boards and seating, so students can watch as they play against one another at recess and

Mount View Calendar

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www.mountviewps.vic.edu.au

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lunchtimes. In addition the Carnival money is going to be used to create another sandpit for the junior playground as well as seating for adults and children in strategic locations around the school. The rest of the funds will be put towards shade sails over the new senior playground and the extension of the playgrounds.

Next year we have plans for building new toilets at the western end of the school (Gallagher’s Road end) and developing new learning spaces within the current structures that we have. The Deaf Facility raised money this year as well as successfully gained grants that allowed us to purchased sound field systems that were strategically placed in classrooms.

This year saw the beginning and completion of our new six classroom complex as part of the BER project. This facility is a significant addition to our learning spaces and is already being utilised by our senior students. We still have landscaping to finish which will take a couple more months. This additional building will now allow us to create language rooms for our Mandarin classes as well as space for our visiting paraprofessionals such as occupational therapists, speech pathologists etc.

I hope that this gives you a sense of some of the major projects that have been supported by your donations and the work of School Council, Parents’ Association, Art Show and Carnival Committees. However, above and beyond all else, the contribution that you ultimately make is the one that supports your child/children each day and encourages them to make the most of their opportunities that arise at this great school. Please continue to instil in your children a pride for their school, a sense of belonging within the Mount View school community and a desire to strive for their personal best in all domains of learning.

**Australian Chess Champions**

On Saturday and Sunday, 3 and 4 December, the Mount View girls’ chess team defended their National title. This is a remarkable achievement and once again highlights the excellent chess program that is run and organised at the school. The team members included: May Foo, Kaitlyn Bunyamin, Bonita Gu-Yang, Shanaya Mendis and Anna Zhuang. The girls won this event in convincing style and are worthy title holders. For those new to the school, this achievement builds from previous national titles. The boys’ team won the National Championship in 2009 and the girls took out the title in 2010. I would also like to acknowledge the care and support that Ms Julie Christie has offered the girls as chaperone for the state and national titles.

**Staff News**

**Gail Castle**

On behalf of all the children, parents and colleagues, I would like to thank Mrs Gail Castle for the significant contribution that she has made at Mount View Primary School over the past 5 years. Gail is retiring at the end of this year and we wish her all the best for a wonderful retirement. I know that she will love the extra time that she will now have to spend with friends and family. Thank you Gail for the care, thought and guidance that you have generously given to the children of Mount View.

**Stacey Sberna**

Stacey Sberna has stepped into the art teacher’s role this year when Ms Amelia Trompf headed to Europe with her husband on a medical fellowship. Stacey has provided the children with a caring and supportive environment, one in which children felt at ease to take risks with their learning and to stretch themselves with their artistic capacity. Stacey – thank you so much for the time and effort that you put into the art program.

**Mary Gabya**

Mary has been working as an Education Support Officer (ESO) for the majority of this year. She has worked with a child in Prep and has supported him on a one to one situation with his learning. Mary has displayed warmth and a nurturing manner when working with the children at Mount View and we wish her well as she returns to visit her family and friends in the Philippines.

**Sue Rimmer**

Sue has been working an an ESO with one of our senior students this term. I would like to thank her for the time and thought that she has provided to this child. I know that the child and his family have very much appreciated her enthusiasm and care.

**Mel Cotton**

Mel has been teaching in the PE Department throughout 2010 and 2011. I would like to acknowledge her contribution to the PE and sport program during this time. Mel has particularly worked well with prep, Yrs 4 & 5 classes on Thursdays each week.

15 December 2011

**Start Date 3 February**

Please note in your diaries and on your calendar that the first day of the 2012 school year for children is Friday 3 February.

**Year 6 Graduation**

Next week we celebrate the Year 6 students graduating from primary school at a special dinner at Merrimu Reception Centre. This is a wonderful evening with presentations from staff and students with a focus on celebrating the children’s successes and achievements. We will also farewell the Year 6 students at our final school assembly that will be held from 12.45 to 1.20pm on Thursday 22 December. It would be great if lots of parents from the school attended the last assembly for 2011.
Prep Christmas Concert
This year the prep children will be entertaining their family members with a Christmas Concert. This will be held in the gymnasium on Tuesday 20 December. This should be an enjoyable night and will be an evening whereby we can celebrate the children’s first year at school.

2012 Community Events
I have had a small number of parents ask me about the reason for not running the whole school Christmas concert this year and was this going to be the situation in the future. This year the Christmas concert is solely focused on the prep year level but this will not be the case in the future. In 2012 we have planned for five major events where the community comes together to share in the joy of being a member of this school community. In Term 1 there will be a family picnic where parents can meet families from their class and year level. This will provide families with the opportunity to meet and welcome new families as well as get to know existing families better. In Term 2 we will be hosting our 28th Annual Art Show and our aim is to get a lot more input and assistance from our school families – this is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the importance of the arts in our lives. In Term 3 the Parents’ Association will once again run the senior and junior school discos - this evening is loved by our children. In Term 4 the School Carnival will be held on 16 November. With over 100 volunteers being involved in this year’s event, we are looking forward to building on this excellent participation with even greater contributions from members within and beyond our school community. On Tuesday 18 December, there will be a Carols by Candlelight style event, one where families can sing carols together and have the time to meet and chat with other school families. David Talathoti, the School Chaplain has indicated that the Church Choir and Band will also be directly involved in the celebratory evening. I hope that this demonstrates that the school and in particular the leadership team value community events and that we are strategically planning to provide these events for the benefit of our community members.

Year Book – Treasure to Keep
The 2011 year book is able to be purchased for only $20.00 and captures highlights from the school year. Please purchase a copy of this year book as a memento for your children.

Tristan Schneider – 5AS
Tristan competed at the NAS Karate National Championships at the Gold Coast, Queensland on 3 & 4 December. In his 10-11yrs division he attained 3rd place in forms (Kata) and 4th place for Point Sparring. This is an outstanding result in a very high standard competition.

Safe and Happy Holiday
On behalf of the staff members I would like to wish all our families a safe and enjoyable holiday. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Thank you for your continued support and trust that you place in the school. I would also like to thank the amazing staff members for their continued dedication and commitment in creating learning environments and programs that support, nurture and challenge the children. Finally to the children - thank you for your desire to strive for your personal best, to treat one another with respect and to make this school the great school that it is. Thank you for a memorable 2011!

Colin Dobson

INDIA – 2012
The Mount View PS cultural exchange in the International School to School Experience (ISSE) program In 2012 will be with a school in Delhi, India. We are looking forward to a visit from Bal Bharati Public School to share the cultures of our two countries. Dates for their visit will be confirmed early next year, at which time we will call for expressions of interest from families to host a student from that school for a duration of approximately 3 weeks.

Through participation in the ISSE cultural exchange program your son or daughter can experience firsthand what life is like in another country. There will be an information evening with details of all aspects of the ISSE program early in Term 1, 2012.

Joanna Meehan
ISSSE coordinator

RIVERKIDS APPEAL by JSC
Our school is again supporting the Riverkids by selling beautiful silk decorations for only $5 each to students at our school. Although they usually sell at $10 each, the school will supplement the value from our JSC account. It is a worthy appeal that contributes to a better education for many children in Cambodia. The decorations will be sold near the school's office in the first part of the lunch break. (1:00-1:25pm)
Dear Mum and all the other Mums and Dads,

Thank you for helping at PMP. I loved doing fun city and the memory cards. I really love your help and so do all the other Preps.

Love Charlotte. (OJB)

Thank you for helping us at PMP. I liked doing the fun city because when I fell off I got to land on the mat. I also liked walking on the balance beam. I loved my mum coming to help.

Love Aidan (OJB)

I loved it when Mum held the long rope during skipping activities in PMP. Tharin 0YA

It was great when Mum helped all the kids with Fun City. Mitchell 0YA

I liked it when my Mum and Grandma helped with the balance beam group. She helped the kids get their balance. Bailey 0YA

I like it when Mum tells me I’m doing well with eye tracking in PMP. Leona 0YA

Throughout this year our Prep students have been involved in PMP on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The program promotes the use of language by “doing, seeing, touching and experiencing”.

Without the incredible support of Prep parents who have kindly donated their time, this program cannot run successfully. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Prep parents who have been involved throughout this year.

Regards,
Tracey Diedrich and Bianca Gatherum

City of Monash
Carols by candlelight
Sunday 18 December 2011
4:00 – 10:00pm
Jells Park
Wheelers Hill
Melway Ref: 71 K 7

Congratulations to the canteen for achieving a ‘five star’ rating from the City of Monash.

Please note that the canteen will be open for business as usual, right to the end of the year including the last day.

Have a safe & happy holiday everyone and see you next year.

Kirsty Leighton
Canteen Manager

Parents’ Association

Thanks – I would like to put out a really big thank you to everyone who has been involved with us this year. All the class reps, the helpers at the disco and the Easter raffle, the huge effort at the carnival, those who got involved in the Art Show and everyone who came along to our meetings. Also thanks to the school banking volunteers, the newsletter collating crew and Denise for organising the Entertainment Books. Of course thank you also to my fellow committee members, who have really stirred the pot this year and brought some great things to life. Well done everyone and thanks for a good year! A big thanks also to the teachers and staff for your support and assistance with the various things we got up to during the year.

BBQs – A number of barbeque events are coming up. These are a special treat for the kids at the end of the year and it would be really nice if we could have a few parents helping on the barbie on these days. Let me know if you’d like to help out on any of these.

- Friday 16 December: Year 4 bike ride and sausage sizzle at Jells Park
- Monday 19 December: Junior school (Prep, year 1, year 2) BBQ
- Tuesday 20 December: Year 3 hamburger lunch

Second Hand Uniforms tomorrow – Kyla will be holding the uniform sale tomorrow, Friday 16 December from 3:00pm. We won’t be holding a sausage sizzle this time. Annabel will have her craft stall open that day.

Next year - We have started planning for 2012 and have the following dates set. Meeting dates are in blue, events in red…

Term 1:
- AGM - Monday 13 February 7:30pm
- PA meeting - Tuesday 6 March 2pm
- Family Picnic Friday 9 March
- Easter raffle Friday 30 March

Term 2:
- PA meeting - Monday 7 May 7:30pm
- Art show opening Thursday 14 June

Term 3:
- Disco Friday August 3
- PA meeting - Monday 6 August 7:30pm
- PA meeting - Tuesday 4 September 2:00pm

Term 4:
- World Teachers’ Day Friday 26 October
- PA meeting - Monday 29 October 7:30pm
- Carnival Friday 16 November
- PA meeting - Tuesday 4 December 2pm
- Carols by Candlelight - Tuesday 18 December

Other events to fit into the calendar: end of term sausage sizzles, first aid course for parents, family photo portraits day. Looking forward to all the fun!

See you at school… Tony Lee
email: tonymountview@gmail.com
phone: 9561 4295 or 0402 137 401