IMPORTANT DATES
TERM 1, 2017

- Wed 15th February
  Parent Helper Information Session 2.30pm
- Fri 17th February
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport—Home Game
- Thurs 23rd February
  Meet and Greet Interviews 3.30pm-8pm
- Fri 24th February
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport—Home Game
- Fri 24th February
  Whole School Photo Day
- Mon 27th February - Wed 1st March
  Grade 5 Camp (Blue Light Youth Camp, Maldon)
- Fri 3rd March
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport—Away Game (Mill Park Primary School)
- Thurs 9th March
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport—Away Game (Plenty Parklands Bushrangers)
- Thurs 9th March
  Prep Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion
- Fri 17th March
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport—Away Game (Mill Park Heights Rockets)
- Fri 24th March
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport—Home Game
- Fri 31st March
  Grade 6 Interschool Sport Grand Final TBA
- Fri 31st March
  End of Term 1, 1.30pm finish

IMPORTANT DATES
TERM 2, 2017

- Tues 18th April
  Start of Term 2
- Thurs 20th & 27th April
  Grade 2 Swimming
- Thurs 27th April
  Prep Kew Traffic School Excursion (Prep A, B, C & D)
- Fri 21st & 28th April
  Grade 5 Swimming
- Fri 28th April
  Prep Kew Traffic School Excursion (Prep E, F & G)
- Thurs 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th May
  Grade 2 Swimming
- Fri 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th May
  Grade 1 Swimming
- Thurs 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd June
  Grade 2 Swimming
- Fri 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd June
  Grade 1 Swimming
- Fri 30th June
  End of Term 2, 1.30pm finish

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Welcome to what will be a wonderful and exciting 2017 for our school.

We trust that all of our families have had a very happy Summer break and found the time to spend with loved ones. The stories that we have been lucky enough to share with our students certainly reflect the global nature of our student cohort!

It is wonderful hearing all of the experiences and holiday stories from students across our school... as a learning community we have managed to visit every corner of the globe over the holiday season.

Welcome to our new students and their families! We have had quite a number of new students enrol this year which is extremely pleasing, with our overall student enrolments being approximately 910.

We would like to welcome all of the new children and their families and congratulate them on selecting our unique school as their very important educational setting.

We do have a wonderful school and we are sure the new students will enjoy being part of the Mernda Primary School Community and Family.

Our 2017 Preps joined our community last Thursday and we have thoroughly enjoyed being able to witness their bubbling enthusiasm for joining ‘big kids’ school. The manner with which the Preps have taken to their learning is a true credit to both our Prep teaching team and the respective families.

Welcome to our new members of staff

We also have a number of new staff members this year and our Mernda community look forward to making them feel valued and respected as a member of such a great school community.

The new staff have already commented on the wonderful learning environment at Mernda Primary School and are very pleased and proud of the students in each of their classes.

Principal role

At Mernda Primary School we have an extremely committed team of professionals who work together to make our school one of the great schools within the Whittlesea area.

The achievements of our students are regularly acknowledged within the local area, both academically and socially. We truly have a wonderful and supportive ‘learning community’.

Mrs Thompson officially resigned from the department on 30th January. The Mernda
community would like to sincerely thank Mrs Thompson for the amazing learning community she has built at Mernda Primary School. Her dedication and commitment to our school has been greatly appreciated and she will be truly missed by the Mernda community.

In term 1 the department will advertise the Principal position, during this time, I, Mrs Janet Hamer, will continue in the Acting Principal role, whilst we seek a suitable appointment to lead the school. We will keep you posted with news regarding this very important appointment, as it comes to hand.

As with all organisations, regardless of the industry or sector, the true measurement of a ‘successful’ organisation is the ability of the organisation to remain focussed and stay true to their philosophy during times of change.

At Mernda Primary School we have an extremely strong Leadership Team, the world’s most amazing teachers and a highly engaged learning community. On a professional level, our leadership structure is complemented by a well-developed ‘succession plan’.

The smooth start to 2017, along with the high level of academic rigour occurring in each and every classroom is evidence of the philosophy of our school; **The students are at the centre of everything we do.**

**School Council News**

We would like to inform Mernda Primary School parents that they are invited to call for nomination for the 2017 School Council Elections. There are two parent vacancies and one DET nominee vacancy. The term of office is for two years.

Council meetings are held every third Wednesday evening of each month usually resulting in two meetings a term. Nomination forms are available from the office as of Monday, 13th February. The closing date for nominations will be Monday, 20th February 2017 at 4.00pm.

If a ballot is required the date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed will be Monday 27th February. The close of the ballot process will be Monday, 6th March at 4.00pm where by the votes will be counted and a declaration of the ballot announced.

Our AGM and first School Council meeting will be Monday, 22nd March, 2017 at 7.00pm. Anyone wishing to nominate for this position can make an appointment to see me.

**Student Leadership Team**

We would like to congratulate our new Student Leadership Team for 2017. The student leadership badges were presented to these students at assembly on Monday afternoon. Other leadership opportunities will be announced shortly.

**School Captains**—Jade B. & Samuel E.

**School Vice Captains**—Chloe B. & Joseph I.

**House Captains**—**Banksia**—Kiana G. & Lachlan B., **Grevillia**—Sharon Z. & Tyler H., **Wattle**—Evelyn M. & Zac D., **Eucalypt**—Sienna V. & Daniel S.

**Meet & Greet**

We will be holding a ‘Meet and Greet’ evening from 3.30pm until 8.00pm for grade one to six parents on Thursday, 23rd February (note: The Prep children have their ‘Meet and Greet’ on Wednesdays during their PEAP testing time.)

This will give parents the opportunity to talk to their child’s teacher, one on one, to discuss their child’s goals for this year relating to their learning as well as providing teachers with information about their child. Parents are able to book online via www.schoolinterviews.com.au and our school event code is t43ef.

**Parents Club News**

Parents Club AGM was held last Monday. Congratulations to the new committee members for 2017; Claire (President) Kyla, (Vice President), Lisa (Treasurer) and Sarah (Secretary).
It was a very productive meeting, with events already organised for the coming months. The next meeting will be held on 20th March at 9am in the staffroom, so enter it in your phones as an alert, as it would be fantastic to see lots of parents coming along with new and creative ideas.

Parent Helper Talk
We value the assistance of parents throughout the school year. We appreciate your support throughout the year and the children benefit from you showing an interest and valuing what they do here at school. There are some protocols and procedures you need to adhere to before we can commence with this important role.

Therefore we have organised a ‘Parent Helper’ talk to be held on Wednesday, 15th February. You will need to enter via the front gate (Everton Drive) as the gates are not opened until around 3.00pm.

Mark Hart will run through expectations for this valuable and worthwhile contribution to the school. The meeting will be held at 2:30pm in the prep learning neighbourhood.

Hot /Inclement Weather Process
As we all know February is usually our hottest month. To ensure the children are getting adequate intake of liquids we allow them to keep the Mernda PS drink bottle filled with water on their tables at all times.

All new students including Prep children are given their first bottle as a welcoming gesture. Replacement drink bottles can be purchased at the office for $5.00. Lids can be replaced also for $1.00.

We ensure all children follow our Sunsmart policy and are wearing appropriate head gear (School Sunsmart hat) from 1st September to 30th April. We have had a few concerned parents asking about the extreme temperatures and what the process is for this.

When the temperature reaches 35 degrees or above the children are supervised inside as part of our inclement weather policy. This includes the teaching of PE lessons or sporting activities. To alleviate having to cancel sport we run the interschool sports program in the morning from 9.00-11.00am.

Instrumental Lessons
Fantastic news………………instrumental lessons are starting at Mernda Primary School next week!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To enrol please see the flyer below or go on our Mernda app under the business directory under “I” for Instrumental, follow the instructions and you could soon be playing an instrument!

The grades and teachers for 2017 are as follows:

**Prep Team**—Chris C (Team Leader), Jacinta D, Michelle P, Bindi K, Cass M, Sarah E & Stephanie P

**One Team**—Christina K (Team Leader), Fiona F, Megan D, Allison Birkett, Mariah C, Mary-Ann O & Angela T & Ellee R

**Two Team**—Monique I (Team Leader), Olivera T, Nicole L, Elisa G, Stephanie R, & Bridget B

**Three Team**—Craig W (Team Leader), Elly C, Rebecca P, Laura G, Brendan P & Tracy R

**Four Team**—Jo U (Team Leader), Laura B, Kirsten A, Simone B, Jessica T & Virginia G

**Five Team**—Heather L (Team Leader), Jessica V, Liz P, Matt B & Kirsty S

**Six Team**—Jenna C (Team Leader), Chris W, Christy B & Cassie B
Once again **WELCOME BACK** to Mernda PS in 2017. It was so pleasing to hear from so many students and parents about how amazing the first day of school was and that they all have the very best teacher in the school.
Week 2—Getting to know new students

Week 3—Teddy Bears Picnic

For bookings and cancellations please contact the program on 0408 050 345.

Breakfast is available until 8:00am.

Donations:
If families have any material, string, wool or cardboard boxes they would like to donate to the program it would be greatly appreciated.

Payment Method:
All BASC payments will be made through Ezi-Debit.
Ezi-Debit forms are available from BASC.

Mernda App Tip

Did you know when you touch a pin on the Venues map it will show you the details of that venue.

And did you know that if you click on the Directions button a new map will open specifically for the venue.

You can then press the Get Here button in the top right hand corner to get directions from wherever you are to the venue.

Some phone models may display

BASC NEWS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Parents please note that:

*All children must be signed in and out of the BASC program.

*Ezi-Debit direct debit form for payments to be completed for children to attend.

*Children can’t attend with last year’s enrolment form.

*All children must be booked in as we have reached our maximum numbers.

As numbers are growing it is vital to book your child in as there are only a number of spaces available for casual bookings.

Please ensure you contact Karen on the number below to secure a place, if staff do not answer the phones please text bookings/cancellations. Do not leave a voice message as it is unclear.

Bookings or Cancellations cannot be made through the school office.

If interested please contact:
Karen McKenzie on 0408 050 345.

School Banking is on Tuesdays

Pathway to learning
This term in Grade One we have begun our ‘Start up program’. It’s through this program that we establish our classroom expectations, our vision for the school year and revise our school values.

It is very important at the beginning of each year that we all develop a shared understanding of why we come to school and how we can work together to make the most out of each day of learning.

Last week in 1A we shared reasons why we come to school and together created our own Class Mission Statement for the school year.

Each student wrote their name and decorated a handprint as a promise to come to school with the right attitude.
## Student of the Week Award

**To be given on Monday, 13th February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREP A</th>
<th>Jason B.</th>
<th>2A</th>
<th>Bharat C.</th>
<th>4C</th>
<th>Joshua B.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP B</td>
<td>Sienna P.</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Alanna</td>
<td>4D</td>
<td>Bailey B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP C</td>
<td>Arvay M.</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Xave</td>
<td>4E</td>
<td>Ashlee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP D</td>
<td>Zacharie V.</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Piper D.</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Grace T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP E</td>
<td>Jamison B.</td>
<td>2E</td>
<td>Annisa W.</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Vasilis K.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP F</td>
<td>Annabel C.</td>
<td>2F</td>
<td>Estella T.</td>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Brandon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP G</td>
<td>Emily F.</td>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Zoe K</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Ezekiel T.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Halise</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Hayden T.</td>
<td>5D</td>
<td>Noah M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Harrison L.</td>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Dylan Z.</td>
<td>5E</td>
<td>LeBron B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Dearra W.</td>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Izzy T.</td>
<td>6A</td>
<td>Hanley M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Jakobi S.</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Serene H.</td>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Kaylee G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E</td>
<td>Peter K.</td>
<td>3E</td>
<td>Jemma E.</td>
<td>6C</td>
<td>Ryder M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>3F</td>
<td>Jesse N.</td>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Saavi K.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Rheeanne S.</td>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Jake B.</td>
<td>MUSIC</td>
<td>Emma L. (1H)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1H</td>
<td>Ilijana M.</td>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Raghav V.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bully Stopper Award

**To be given on Monday, 20th February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREP A</th>
<th>Penelope D.</th>
<th>2A</th>
<th>Zarah Z.</th>
<th>4C</th>
<th>Noah R.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREP B</td>
<td>Nicholas I.</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>Jett</td>
<td>4D</td>
<td>Georgia D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP C</td>
<td>Liam I.</td>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Lylah C.</td>
<td>4E</td>
<td>Noa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP D</td>
<td>Alanna A.</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>Andre G.</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>James F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP E</td>
<td>Christian W.</td>
<td>2E</td>
<td>Joshua L.</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Tristan F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP F</td>
<td>Kelly W.</td>
<td>2F</td>
<td>India C.</td>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Aisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREP G</td>
<td>Hayley T.</td>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Brndon B.</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>Taya C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>Lilly</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Kristian B.</td>
<td>5D</td>
<td>Kirra W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Khloe P.</td>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Lachlan R.</td>
<td>5E</td>
<td>Alli B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>Anouk L.</td>
<td>3C</td>
<td>Charli K.</td>
<td>6A</td>
<td>Isaac A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1D</td>
<td>Ayden E.</td>
<td>3D</td>
<td>Justin S.</td>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Charlotte G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E</td>
<td>Jade L.</td>
<td>3E</td>
<td>Kayne S.</td>
<td>6C</td>
<td>Chantelle A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1F</td>
<td>Maia</td>
<td>3F</td>
<td>Amber N.</td>
<td>6D</td>
<td>Camden W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Blake B.</td>
<td>4A</td>
<td>Jamie C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1H</td>
<td>Dustyn I.</td>
<td>4B</td>
<td>Jemma C.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KID’S ON COURT
AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2017

On Tuesday, 24th January 2017, 9 students from Mernda Primary School participated in the Australian Open Kid’s on Court.

Students and their parents met Mrs Smith and Australian Open staff at the Australian Open Festival and were taken into the official player area.

They then spent 15 minutes on Rod Laver Arena playing Hotshots tennis prior to the first Women’s Quarterfinal.

Parents were treated to special seats while they watched their children playing. After the tennis session, students and parents were treated to a free day at the tennis.

This was a wonderful experience for all of the students who attended. Thank you to the parents who met me bright and early at the tennis and a huge thank you to the wonderful Tennis Australia staff who looked after us this day.

This is a snapshot of the day by Jaxon from 2C.

On January 24th 2017, I went to the Australian Open. I played on Rod Laver Court, my Partner was Asher Patcash. We used racquets and balls to play. We got to walk under the seats and past the player’s rooms. It was really fun. I had a great day.

By Jaxon E.

Thanks,
Mrs Smith, Physical Education Teacher
Book Club

Book Club order forms will be going home on Thursday.
Orders are due back by Friday, 17th February.
Please note no late orders can be accepted.

Mernda Primary School is running an information session for Parents / Caregivers who want to help out in the classroom.
The PARENT HELPERS information session will be held in
The Grade Prep Learning Neighbourhood
(you will be directed there from the front office)
on Wednesday the 15th of February at 2.30pm.

If you are interested in hearing more about becoming a PARENT HELPER then please come along.
Schools, Peer Groups & Parents

Everyone has a part to play in developing a positive culture and encouraging students to look out for each other.

How can schools counter bullying?

The vast majority of students do not want bullying to occur, but often don’t know how to stop it. The rate of bullying in schools is consistent over time—it hovers around 1 in 5 students and has done so for years.

The reason for this is not that prevention programs are ineffective, but that there is consistently a percentage of young people who believe that bullying is an acceptable way to interrelate. These people need to be educated that bullying is not acceptable—ever.

This means that schools should have ongoing campaigns and programs to prevent bullying, to intervene effectively when incidents occur, to celebrate diversity, and to promote friendship and positive social behaviours.

The culture of a school is set by the leadership and teachers, but it is students and parents that can really make it strong. When students feel empowered to tell adults when bullying occurs, to create opportunities for positive relationships and make commitments not to engage in bullying they can establish a positive peer group culture that makes a huge contribution to the school culture.
**Schools, Peer Groups & Parents**

**How can peer groups counter bullying?**

Most students are heroes in waiting but they need to be encouraged to realise it. The idea that you can and should stand up for others, rather than being a passive observer to bullying, is an important value which should be actively promoted.

There are several ways schools can do this:

- Students can sign a pledge or an agreement not to passively condone or accept bullying wherever it occurs and whoever is involved. This reduces anonymity and increases positive commitment.
- Students can receive training in ‘resilience’: a set of skills which predict good outcomes for young people and is also associated with less bullying in schools. They are then empowered to develop projects to create a positive change in their school or community. These students are often called Resiliance Ambassadors.
- Festivals of friendship—these are student run and organised days that broaden connections between students and have been shown to be effective in increasing resilience and reducing bullying.
- Bullying partly occurs when we see other people as less human and less sensitive than they truly are. When we connect people and encourage them to act heroically in the face of bullying, the cultures of schools change. Heroism is the enemy of bullying.
- Groups or alliances can celebrate diversity in the school population, and take a stand against racism, sexism and homophobia.

**How can parents support their children in countering bullying?**

- Be vocal supporters, in a positive manner, for the importance of schools being safe and friendly places where no one feels bullied or intimidated.
- Encourage teachers to conduct programs that involve students in creating great schools.
- Support your child in effectively intervening in bullying incidents. Teach children to use comments like ‘that’s not cool’, ‘don’t be mean’ and ‘come on, you’re a better friend than that’. The effects are powerful and can change schools.
What you can do

Supervise children in or near traffic.
The best way for children to learn to be safe on the roads is under your guidance, in real traffic, in everyday situations. Until children are about 10 or 11 years of age they do not have the necessary skills and physical abilities to be safe on their own so providing supervised practice is important.

Walk or cycle to school with your child.
Take the healthy option. If you can’t walk the whole way, consider parking a few streets away and walking the rest of the way. Children under the age of 12 are allowed to ride on footpaths and so can adults riding with them.

Respect the road rules and parking signs.
It is important that parents park legally to provide a safer environment for children.
- Double parking restricts the view of drivers, forces children onto the road and obstructs the flow of traffic.
- Parking within 20 metres before a designated school crossing or 10 metres after is illegal.

Wait on the same side of the road as your child.
- Meet your child at the school gate to avoid your child dashing across the road.
- If picking up your child from the bus stop, wait on the same side as the bus.

If you need to drive to school, get your child into the habit of using the car’s kerbside doors and ensure your child is using a booster seat or correctly adjusted seatbelt.
The safest doors are kerbside doors, away from traffic. For information about Victoria’s child restraint road rules, visit vicroads.vic.gov.au/ChildRestraints

Participate in the development of a safe drop off and pick up strategy for your school.
Raise this issue with your school council and participate in the development of a ‘safe to school’ strategy. Visit vicroads.vic.gov.au/safetoschool for more information.
Obey these signs

40km/h sign
All school speed limits across the State are clearly signposted. Look out for the speed signs near schools and slow down to improve safety for children.

Children crossing
When the flags are displayed at a children’s crossing, you must stop for pedestrians who are waiting to cross or who have started crossing. You must remain stopped until the crossing is clear. These rules apply even if there is no crossing supervisor.

No parking
It is important that you don’t park in any area where this sign is displayed.

No stopping
No stopping means you must not stop at the kerb for any reason.

Bus zone
Take extra care and be on the lookout near school bus stops as children may be trying to cross the road nearby.