



Thursday 1st February 2024

TERM 1 WEEK 1

KEY DATES 2024

FEBRUARY

Mon 12th - Tennis Clinics Commence - Gr 1-4

Tues 13th - **Getting to Know You Interviews**
(2-7pm)

Mon 19th - Fri 23 - Camp Weekaway - Gr 5/6

MARCH

Tues 5th - Tennis Clinics Commence - Gr P & 5/6

Wed 6th - Scienceworks Excursion - Gr 1/2

Fri 8th - **Curriculum Day - No students Required**

Mon 11th - **Labour Day Public Holiday**

Thurs 28th - Easter Hat Parade

Thurs 28th - **Last Day of Term 1**
(2.30pm - students dismissed)



DATES AND TIMES TO REMEMBER:

TERM DATES 2024

Term 1 - Tues 30th Jan - Thurs 28th March

Term 2 - Mon 15th April - Fri 28th June

Term 3 - Mon 15th July - Fri 20th September

Term 4 - Mon 7th Oct - Fri 20th December

CURRICULUM DAYS 2024

Monday 29th January - Admin/Curriculum

Friday 8th March - Literacy

Friday 26th April - Numeracy

Monday 4th Nov - Assessment and Reporting

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE. DAYS 2024

Thursday 12th December 2024

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2024

Monday 11th March - Labour Day

Friday 29th March - Good Friday

Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday

Monday 1st April - Easter Monday

Thursday 25th April - Anzac Day

Monday 10th June - King's Birthday

Friday 27th Sept - AFL Grand Final Holiday

Tuesday 5th November Melbourne Cup

TIMETABLE

Commence	8.58 Line-up Bell-Music 9am 2 nd Bell - Roll Marked
Recess	11.00 - 11.30am
Lunch	1.40 - 2.30pm
School Finishes	3.30pm

Message From The Principal

Welcome Back

As a new school year is upon us I would like to start by welcoming everyone back to school for 2024 and in particular, I'd like to welcome our Preps and new students to the school. The sense of excitement is always palpable and it was lovely to see prep classrooms packed with families making the most of what will no doubt be a treasured memory. Hopefully our families made the most of the holiday break and our students are refreshed and ready to learn.

Thank You

From a personal note, it is nice to be back on deck, following last year's health scare. I'll be returning part time for much of Term 1, so you may not see me quite as often, but rest assured I'm on the mend and expecting a full recovery. That said, I would like to acknowledge my amazing team at MPS. Last year, when I was suddenly struck ill, they stepped up and made sure that the school did not miss a beat and that I could focus on my recovery. I would like to thank all of the staff for playing their part, but in particular Stuart Hattwell and Nicola Weerakoon, my wonderful Assistant Principals, who took over the day to day running of the school in a moment's notice and ensured that everything kept moving in the right direction. We are very lucky to have two hi-calibre leaders who are both so capable of running a school. It certainly put my mind at ease when it needed it most. I would also like to thank all the parents and students for the thoughtful get-well cards and gifts. It meant the world to me at my lowest point and helped me realise that I could focus on getting well without letting anyone down. Thank you all.

Day 1

The first day of the school year was a great success, with students from F-6 settling in exceptionally well. I would like to thank the staff for making the students feel so at ease, but also acknowledge the work that was put in last year during the transition program. Our students have hit the ground running, which is exactly what we were hoping for! It was also wonderful to see so many parents in and around the school and we hope that this continues! As the week has unfolded it is already business as usual and the students are getting on with learning!

Communications

Communications will predominantly flow through Xuno as the first port of call, so I encourage families to make sure they have this app. In terms of student learning, teaching teams will be continuing to use the See-Saw app in 2024.

Each year level will provide fortnightly updates, with additional updates on a needs basis. Parents will notice that the preps and Year 5 & 6 students will most likely receive more notifications throughout the year than the standard, as there is often a lot going on at both ends, for example the 100 days of prep and the Year 6 graduation. Please do not be alarmed if your child is in Years 1 to 4 and it feels like they are receiving fewer notifications, that's to be expected!

Curriculum

The team at MPS continues to deliver programs which are as engaging as possible and ensures that our teaching meets each child's point of need. In 2024, we will also maintain a strong wellbeing focus as we welcome Mrs Jo Bon to the team. Mrs Bon will take up the role of Learning Specialist – Wellbeing and will oversee the new initiatives being introduced in 2024. Throughout the year we will keep families up to date with these changes and our goal is to ensure that we are addressing the wellbeing needs of all students to maintain a positive and supportive school environment. Parents can help us in this endeavour by encouraging every child to have a go at new things and to not be afraid of making mistakes. We all learn through mistakes and it is having the confidence to try new things that we move out of our comfort zone and build new knowledge and skills.

In 2024, MPS will also continue to be focussed on each students' point of need, with curriculum days planned to improve our numeracy, reading and wellbeing approaches. Staff will be undertaking ongoing evidence based professional learning in these areas to ensure our work reflects the most up to date research. We will also build on the improvements made to "Student Voice and Agency" over the last few years. Students will continue to build resilience and independence through our School Wide Positive Behaviour model, supported by selected sections of the Respectful Relationships program. In addition, we will continue to provide every student with an Individual Education Plan towards the end of Terms 1 & 3, which will act as "mini-reports" to offset the mid and end of year reporting process.

Getting to Know You Meetings – Tuesday 13th February

Notices will go home soon about our Getting to Know You meetings which will be held on Tuesday 13th February from 2-7pm. Parents of all students will be invited to book a time convenient to them. Bookings can be made via our Xuno online system.

The purpose of these interviews is twofold. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to:

- *Meet their child's teacher to begin an effective home/school partnership.*
- *Provide information to teachers regarding their child's strengths, talents, issues or concerns.*

Information shared by parents to teachers will assist us to plan for and work as effectively as possible with you and your child throughout the year. Interviews will be 8 minutes in length.

2024 Parent Payments Reminder

Parent payments help the school to operate effectively. At MPS, we continue to keep our contributions very low, however those additional funds are the difference between providing the additional programs, such as a significant investment in technology, that cannot be delivered without the support of families. We would like to thank the parents that have already made these payments and strongly encourage all families to do what they can. Parent payment arrangements are available if families would feel more comfortable paying in termly instalments. Simply contact Suzy or myself to discuss payment options.

School Council Elections

Information regarding the 2024 School Council election process was sent to families via Xuno on Tuesday this week. I would encourage any interested parent to contact me for more information. School Council is an extremely vital part of the school and it is from council that we take our direction. Council approves external contracts, provides advice and consent on a range of areas and oversees school finance. Please look out for this if you think you may be interested in nominating or being nominated. Information includes a timeline and summary of the role of School Council.

Parents and Families

Once again we call for interested parents who would like to be a part of the PFA in 2024. Thank you to those who have made contact, but if any other families would like to be involved we would love to hear from you. Please email Mulgrave.ps@education.vic.gov.au if you would like to contribute. A meeting will be arranged for interested parents once we have your responses. We look forward to working with you this year!

2025 Enrolments

With the school now at its capacity, we are once again required to cap our 2025 prep numbers at a maximum of 66 students. Pressure on enrolments continues to be strong, with the school once again unable to provide places for many families who were interested in our school for 2024.

For 2025 Foundation (prep) enrolments, we will continue with the new process rolled out across the state last year. Attached to this newsletter is a guide to the new process, which commences at the beginning of Term 2. The new application forms will be available for download from this time and we anticipate that applications will need to be made by **Friday 26th July**.

Existing MPS families will have priority, but it would be extremely helpful if current families could enrol as early as possible next term, so that we can identify how many places will be available for new families. Given the nature of the new process, we would be very happy if families could simply call the office in the meantime and advise us if you have a child that will be commencing in 2025.

As per previous years, we will prioritise sibling claims and new enrolments from inside our Designated Neighbourhood Area. Once we have done this, we will look to provide clarity for those enrolling from outside of our area, as per the Department's guidelines (see below).

The new state wide enrolment process is still being rolled out to school staff, so as we have more information, we will update families accordingly. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

Priority Order of Placement

In circumstances when a school may not be able to accept all applications due to existing or future capacity concerns, schools must manage enrolment applications in accordance with the following priority order of placement:

1. students for whom the school is the designated neighbourhood school
2. students with a sibling at the same permanent address who are attending the school at the same time
3. All other students in order of closeness of their home to the school.
4. In exceptional circumstances, a student may be enrolled on compassionate grounds. These are considered on a case-by-case basis. More information is available at www.vic.gov.au.

Gate Opening and Closing Times

As in previous years, students should be arriving before 8:57am (when the music starts) so that they can enter their classroom and be ready for learning at 9am.

Gates will be unlocked by 8:45am each morning. The reason behind this is in order to maintain student safety. Staff are not on duty until 8:45am and students who enter the schools grounds prior to this are unsupervised and at risk. In previous years we saw a growing number of students entering the grounds as early as 8am without adult supervision. For families where both parents work and therefore need to drop off their children prior to 8:45am, the school provides an Out of School Hours Care program that runs from 7am to 6pm.

The front gate will always remain open during the day for access to the office and as a late entry and early exit point, whilst side gates will be shut. All students arriving after 9am must sign in at the office.

Parents are welcome on site at any time. We only ask that parents remain out of the classrooms prior to school starting as staff prepare for the day ahead. It is also important for students to build their resilience and part of this is entering the rooms on their own (with the exception of preps in the first week or so).

The side gates will be locked at 3:40pm. Any students remaining at school at 3:40pm will be escorted to the gazebo at the front of the school for collection. It is expected that students who are not collected by 3:45pm are registered for out of school hours care, so that they can be placed in care in the event that families cannot collect their children by 3:45pm.

Kiss and Go Parking

A reminder to families that cars cannot be left unattended if you are using the Kiss and Go drop off and pick up zone. I understand the tendency to think that a quick trip to the office won't hurt, but parents leave themselves open to fines if a parking officer is in the area. Often, the first time you will know about it is when you receive the fine in the mail, as most fines are processed from photographic evidence. This will also assist the flow of traffic and ease of pick up and drop off for all families. I would also remind parents that the parking time limit in this area is 5 minutes.



Car Parking

Parents are asked to be mindful of the parking restrictions around the school. Parking officers regularly patrol the school zone. **The staff car park is strictly for staff cars only and parents must not enter this car park between 8am and 4:30pm.** We have visiting staff entering and leaving on a regular basis, as such, **pedestrians should not use the car park when entering and leaving the school.** Please use the pathways at the front of the school, via Gladeswood Reserve and on Maygrove Way. Excellent parking is available at both the kindergarten and tennis club entries to Gladeswood Reserve. I would also ask families to be mindful of our neighbours and avoid parking across driveways, **in no standing areas** or on nature strips. We thank you for your support in this matter as student safety is very important to us.

Lunch Orders

We will continue to offer lunch orders on Tuesdays and Fridays in 2024. Students are able to order their lunches via Qkr only (cash will not be accepted). Orders can be placed this Friday 2nd February and Friday 9th February for the first 2 weeks and from the week commencing 12th February, lunch orders will be available every Tuesday and Friday thereafter.

Orders must be placed by 9am sharp, but can be pre-ordered in advance. The new menu is available via the app. Our new canteen service providers are a third party operation, so the school is unable to take late orders over the phone.

Assembly

Assemblies will take place at 2:40pm every second Friday in the stadium, commencing with a short assembly next week on **Friday February 9th**.

Curriculum Days & Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences

A reminder that the 2024 Curriculum Days are as follows:

Day 1 - Jan 29th (Admin/Curriculum)

Day 2 - Fri 8th March (Literacy)

Day 3 - Fri 26th April (Numeracy)

Day 4 - Cup Eve Mon Nov 4th (Reporting)

In addition, the state government has approved a professional practice day and due to ongoing teacher shortages, these days will be student free in 2024:

PPD 1 - Term 4 Thursday 12th Dec (2025 planning)

Labour Day Public Holiday

Parents are reminded that there is a Labour Day holiday on **Monday 11th March**. There will be no school on this day.

School Uniform

Uniforms are available via PSW in Glen Waverley. All students should be attending school in full uniform. This is either the pale blue polo shirt for years P-5 or the navy year 6 polo. A summer dress and winter skirt are also available, along with navy shorts and tracksuit pants and the navy bomber jacket. Hats are required in terms 1 and 4, with school beanies on offer for the cooler months. Should your child be unable to attend in uniform, please send a note to your child's classroom teacher. The uniform policy is available via the school website.

Art Smocks

To protect clothing, all students are requested to have an Art Smock or old shirt that can be worn during art classes.

Working with Children Checks (WWC)

We encourage and value parental and community support at MPS. There are many ways that parents, grandparents and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children's Check that will allow you to be very involved in your child's education. These checks are free for volunteers. Once you have your WWC please come to the office so we can photocopy this and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWC check.

Staffing

A very warm welcome is extended to our new teachers – Miss Bridgette Thorne (1T), Mr. Caleb Lazar (4L) and Mrs Jo Bon (4B). We also welcome back Mrs Evana Durack (3HD) from Family Leave and Miss Beth Pope (2P) and Miss Amanda Hickleton (4H) after 12 months of globetrotting adventures. Please say hello to our new staff members if you see them around the school.

Our team for 2024...

Prep: Erica Newnham (PN), Lauri Brogden (PB) and Jay Khoo (PK)

Year 1: Sarah Murray (1M), Bernice Li (1B) and Bridgette Thorne (1T)

Year 2: Marika Evans (2E), Michelle Ohia (2O) and Beth Pope (2P)

Year 3: Kate Hattwell & Evana Durack (3HD) and Emma Harrison (3H)

Year 4: Amanda Hickleton (4H), Jo Bon (4B) and Caleb Lazar (4L)

Year 5: Nathan Giles (5G), Lenore Matthews (5M) and Nicole MacPhie (5MP)

Year 6: Hayley Cutting & Lauren Hay (6CH), Jordan Geer (6G) and Tim O'Neill (6O)

STEM: Stuart McIlwraith

Spanish: Pilar Caivano

Visual Arts: Dani Pejic

Performing Arts: Sally Bush

Physical Education: John Stokes

Tutoring Program (Response to Individual Needs): Tracy Turner

Education Support: Marina Vujmilovic, Tien Sumarni, You Meng Hooi, Lisa Laski, Jacque Nathan, Vicki Goldsworthy, Grace Gardiner and Sindhu Havanur

Admin Officers: Viki Ali and Anna Long

Business Manager: Suzy Shaw

Assistant Principals: Stuart Hattwell & Nicola Weerakoon

Principal: Charles Spicer

Annual Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#).

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website [<https://mulgraveps.vic.edu.au/about-us/#plans>].

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in nine community languages: *Amharic, Arabic, Dari, Mandarin, Somali, Sudanese, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese*.

Accident Insurance

The Department of Education and Training (DET) does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. The Department of Education states that reasonable low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector. Similarly, DET (which includes the school) does not offer replacement of personal items which are brought to school and are lost, broken or stolen. Sentimental or expensive belongings and toys, including sports equipment and electronic devices, are normally best left at home.

Mobile phones

Readers of the newsletter would be aware of the introduction of the state-wide policy on Mobile Phones in Victorian Government Schools. All students are required to turn off and hand in mobile phones to prevent usage during school hours. **This also extends to smart watches with sim cards where the call and messaging function can connect to the student's phone.**

Devices will be placed in the a locked cabinet/cupboard at the start of the day and handed back at the end of the day.

School Council has approved our Mobile Phone policy to ensure it is aligned to DET directives. A copy of this policy is available on our website.

Please discuss this with your child/ren to assist us in following this policy. We thank you for your support in this area.

Hats

A reminder that hats must be worn in terms one and four. Sunscreen and sunglasses are also highly recommended.

Dogs on School Grounds

A reminder that dogs are not permitted on school grounds, with the exception of guide dogs for the blind. This is not only to protect the safety of the students, but also to protect the dog, as often any adverse reaction is usually a response to being surprised, as opposed to an act of aggression. We would not like to see any animal put in this position due to being overwhelmed by its surroundings.

Heat Policy

The school operates a heat policy and we keep the children indoors in air conditioned classrooms on very hot days where the temperature exceeds 35°C. We have also been asked to remind our parent community about the dangers of leaving children in cars on very hot days.



As always, plenty to get through to start the new school year.

Enjoy the weekend ahead everyone!

Charles Spicer

Principal

Outside School Hours Care Newsletter

01/02/2024

Mulgrave Primary School



Your
OSHC.



Chinese New Year in After School Care



5-9 Feb

Book now

A message from your Coordinator

A very warm welcome back to OSHC students and families, I hope you all enjoyed a restful summer break and are prepared for an exciting new year!

For OSHC students, we have many exciting events planned this term. The highlight of the term is our Big Art comp, which is returning this term. Every Friday, we will be exploring a variety of mediums of creative art to let our imaginations run wild and there will be also an opportunity to showcase our talent on the national stage.

Next week we will be celebrating Chinese New Year connecting children to other cultures and traditions through food and activities. This week children are exploring foam art, and moon foil art, making yummy coconut jam slices, cinnamon pancakes and mini pizzas.

Activities coming up

- Fortune cookies
- Dragon egg team game
- Chinese zodiac

Make a booking

Join in the fun of Outside School Hours Care activities and experiences with Your OSHC and Rocketeers.

Book now



Register free and book in 24/7 via our app

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at pp.campaustralia.com.au or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



Find out more and book now at www.campaustralia.com.au

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Mondays & Wednesdays

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