**WHAT’S ON THIS WEEK**

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****Reminder to Prep Parents to return envelopes for the School Nursing program asap****

**FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
- Castlemaine State Festival excursion Thursday 21st March
- Grandparents and Special friends Day Monday 25th March

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

All the teachers and staff took part in some professional development with a volunteer from the local CFA last Wednesday. As part of our Emergency Management Plan staff need to be aware of where all fire extinguishers are located and how to use them. Most staff had never used an extinguisher before, so we spent some time learning how to operate them and also how to use fire blankets and other fire safety tips were given by Neil McKnight. Some quotes from staff regarding the fire PD.

**Brett** - “I found the fire PD highly practical, as I always wondered what it would feel like to let off an extinguisher. Now I feel prepared and confident that if the situation arose I could safely operate one without fear or confusion”.

**Debbie** - “When using the fire extinguisher the nozzle should be aimed at the base of the fire”

Staff are also educating students on our emergency management plans and taking part in mock emergency drills including fire and lock down procedures.

**HARMONY DAY – Wednesday 20th March**

To celebrate Harmony Day we will be having a cultural lunch together. The children will be preparing and cooking the food and lots of parent helpers are needed. So if you are able to assist please let us know. Also if you have any recipes that you would like to share that represents a meal from your culture background please pass it on to Bernadette.

**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE – MARCH 15TH**

This Friday is National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence and it is an opportunity for students, teachers, parents and the whole community to take a stand together against bullying and violence. We will be focusing on Bullying. No Way! and reinforcing our positive behavior policy and talking with students and strengthening everyday messages that bullying and violence at school are not okay at any time.

The first National Day was in 2011 and is an initiative of all Australian Education Ministers.
**Thank You:**

..... to Georgina Weire for taking care of the plants  
.........to Lana and Steve Bennetts for volunteering to paint the toilets  
... Neil McKnight from local CFA  
... to all parents who have volunteered their time to help out with reading in the classroom.

**ASSEMBLY**

There was no assembly this week, but we look forward to Johns Prep class presenting at next week’s assembly and there will also be lots of awards to present to make up for that missed week
So watch next week’s newsletter for all our award winners!!

**With best wishes,**

**Jodie Mengler and Liz Grainger**

**BASIC INDONESIAN FOR PARENTS**

Dear Parents,

From 2:45 until 3:15 on Thursdays I am available for parents to develop their skills in Indonesian. The lessons will cover the basics that your child is currently studying in class.

This is a great way to gain an understanding of what your child is learning as well as being able to assist them in their development. If you are planning a holiday in Bali then this is one avenue to enhance your visit.

Please notify the office if you intend to take up this offer by registering your name.

Regards Peter

**CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL**

All Maldon PS students will be participating in two workshops and a performance on Thursday, 21st March, 2013.

- Workshop (A) – Children’s Choir with Jane Thompson and James Rigby – Castlemaine Town Hall.
- Workshop (B) – Concrete Poetry with Mandy Field and Paul Allen – ‘The Shed’, rear of 14-16 Mostyn Street, Castlemaine.


All students attending schools in the Mt Alexander Shire are invited to come along to the closing day of the Festival to join in the singing of the Goora song that we have learnt at school.

**FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY**

This week’s volunteers are: Anita Mason and Kerry Oliver  
Next week’s volunteers are: Teena Timmermans and Carolynne Spencer-Lizzul

**GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY REMINDER…..**Please help to make our Grandparents and Special Friends day a big success by baking a batch of scones,....please return the form to the office by Friday 15th March

**EASTER PARADE**

The Easter Parade Information Form will be going home with this newsletter.

We are very excited by this year’s theme, “A Home Amongst the Gum Trees”, which expands on our school’s annual theme, “I am Australian”  
I can’t wait to view the combined creative collaborations of Lauren and Andrew, Kate and Wayne and Jodie and Nathan, who are designing and constructing the float.

It promises to be a wonderful and fun addition to the Easter Parade.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Monday, 18th March, Meeting #2, 9.30 a.m., to be held in the LOTE Room, that adjoins the prep room, after assembly.

Monday, 25th March, Grandparents and Special Friends day, 2 – 3 p.m.

Monday, 1st April, Maldon Easter Parade. All students are invited to participate.

**CATCH UP AND COFFEE MORNING**

Our catch up and coffee morning have recommenced!!

This is a casual, informal drop in / catch up morning that we have at Maldon Café, every Monday after assembly, open to all parents and caregivers. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

**Felicity McGoldrick**

Parent Club President
Mt Alexander Family Day Care
You can be confident your child will be nurtured in a safe and caring home environment.
Cat holds an Advanced Diploma of Children’s Services and is monitored and supported in her professional role by a team at Castlemaine Child Care Co-operative.
Care provided for Long Day Care, Before and After Care – including pickups and drop offs from Maldon Primary, children 3 months to 12 years.
The service is part of a national network - Family Day Care Australia - and accredited by a comprehensive quality assurance process. The service is approved for government Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate for eligible families, so is very affordable compared to Center Based Care.
So if you need care for work or respite, anywhere from 1 day to full-time.
contact Cat – 0414 424 754 or Castlemaine Childcare Centre - 5472 3665, 15-17 Templeton St, Castlemaine

STEAM TRAINS FOR KIDS
Family Railway Fun
MALDON STATION
Sat / Sun : April 13 / 14
Train Rides - Steam & Diesel.
Animal Farm. Model Railway.
Clown on board. Novelty Rides.
Sausage Sizzle. Horse Cart Rides
Great Family Day
From 10.00am
PH : 54706658
On Line Bookings available
www.vgr.com.au

FIFO Families is a new and unique organisation providing social and supportive networks for employees and their families who work on a fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) or drive-in-drive-out (DIDO) basis in the resource sector.
FIFO Families creates connections, networks and new levels of support for families who experience long work related absences of one or both parents. When registering with FIFO Families, members have access to other local area or interstate FIFO families who are able to offer assistance, advice, support, guidance and social connection when needed.
This gives members rare and valuable access to other people who live and experience the unique way of life that comes predominantly with working in the resource sector especially those who operate on a fly in fly out basis.
FIFO families can access regular get togethers and social events, chat forums and newsletters which prove to be invaluable in terms of dissolving feelings of loneliness and isolation that many FIFO families experience. Families get to come together, meet and talk about their unique way of life and challenges that are faced on a daily basis. Through this level of connection members feel confident of sharing experiences, health issues and high stress levels. Others are rejoicing in simply connecting with like-minded people who share the same lifestyle.
The FIFO Families website is very interactive and members from all over Australia contribute to requests, offer assistance to new families or share priceless wisdom gained over years of FIFO lifestyles. Members receive a monthly newsletter with up to date and relevant information about FIFO life and FIFO Families news.
FIFO Families currently has 35 local, grass roots community groups that meet in almost every state of Australia, including Castlemaine/Central Vic. The Castlemaine/Central Vic FIFO Families group next get together is 17th March 2013. For more information and to RSVP to the Castlemaine/Central Vic events please visit the website www.fifofamilies.com.au or contact Tracy: castlemaine@fifofamilies.com.au