Dear Parents/Caregivers,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of SCHOOL COUNCIL
The Annual General Meeting of the Maldon Primary School Council will be held at 6.30pm this coming Wednesday, March 20th. A General Meeting will follow. We welcome back current members, including Stuart Buchanan (who has been re-elected), and new School Councillors Amy Atkinson and Nicole Funston.

GRANDPARENTS’ AND SPECIAL FRIENDS’ DAY
We would love to welcome all Grandparents and Special Friends next Monday at 2pm for some time with the children, a little concert and afternoon tea. Please accept the invitation that the children made for you.

ASSEMBLY
The Preps did a marvelous job of singing their three songs: The Days of the Week, The Alphabet Song and In Come the Animals. It was terrific to see them all demonstrate the value of Confidence, by managing so well without John there to help them. Thank you to the many parents who came to support and encourage them.

HARMONY DAY – Wednesday 20th March
To celebrate Harmony Day, as part of Cultural Diversity Week, 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.

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
- Easter Hat Parade and Easter Egg Raffle – Thursday 28th March
- Last day of term 1 – Thursday, 28th March, 2.30 pm dismissal
- Maldon Easter Parade
- First day of term 2 – Monday, April 15th

ALL STUDENTS WILL NEED TO BRING A PLASTIC BAG WITH FORK, SPOON AND DINNER-SIZED PLATE FOR LUNCH ON WEDNESDAY.
They will not need to bring lunch, but will still need healthy snack and fruit.
Foods being cooked are pizza from Italy, fried rice from China, Dahl from Nepal and Cranakin from Scotland! Yum!

NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE:
On Friday the whole school was involved in learning more about bullying. The students all did an activity in the classroom and received a card and wrist band from the government site www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

TAKE A STAND TOGETHER
Bullying: NO WAY!

VALUE AWARDS for the last two weeks - Values of Excellence and Confidence:
Congratulations and well done to:
Mercy Czehmester for doing a fantastic job on Share Day. You are speaking clearly and showing improved confidence. Well done!
Malachi Fox for being super organized. Having materials ready has helped him produce fantastic work! Great job!
Hamish Coakley for practising his reading every night and being determined to learn how to become a better reader.
Tayah Doyle for having the courage to sort out an issue with her friends, even though it wasn’t easy.

Austin Peace for always training very hard for the cross country. His hard work will pay off on the day.

Grace Alford Koolen for taking more risks with writing this week and working hard to try new things. Great work Grace.

Lily Gautam for showing confidence in being a Values Presenter at assembly each week. Well done.

Holly Sparrow for displaying excellent skills in the role of Presenter at assembly each week. Well done.

......to Bec Hamilton, Lisa Mott and Priscilla Zammit for transporting our tennis team to Bendigo

With best wishes,

Jodie Mengler and Liz Grainger

Parents’ Club News

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
This week’s volunteers are: Teena Timmermans and Carolynne Spencer-Lizzul

** First week of Term 2, volunteers are: Millie Ousley and Narelle Leivers

GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY
Thank you to everyone who has offered to help out by baking a batch of scones, or who is helping out on the day. The C.O.I.L. group is working hard to tally up the numbers of guests, and what ingredients they will need to make the afternoon a success!

EASTER PARADE
The Easter Parade forms are due back today, this is a wonderful opportunity to join in and enjoy the Maldon Easter festivities, and a great chance to support your school’s theme.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
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

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.

Just come along and join in the fun!

Regards Peter

More Congratulations to:
- The Preps for winning the Come-Along Cup with no absences
- The Preps for winning the Chook Award

Thank Yous:
...... to Diane Murdoch for our gorgeous fluffy new chooks – Snowball, Ginger and Thunder.
......to Georgina Weire and Phinn Weighton-Weire for the wonderful job they did in the school library
......to James Coakley, Jonathan Sparrow and Istvan Czehmester for sharing their experiences of a different culture with the students in the 4/5/6 room

BACK:
Liam F, Grace, Tayah, Lily, Laura (Birthday girl – 8), Holly, Austin

FRONT:
Hamish, Malachi, Mercy, Bailey (Birthday boy – 6)

Active Sports Award
... to Liam Fothergill for returning equipment when the first bell goes.

ARTIST of the WEEK:
….Himal Gautam – Name design

The students created a design using the letters of their name. They drew their name in block letters and copied the letters below in mirror style. Then they decorated the letters using complementary colours.
The school was represented by a team of four players at the Zone tennis tournament last week. Here are their comments and some photos.

“It was difficult because it was the first time we played Singles, but it was a good experience” Nathan

“It was good to play against people that had a higher skill level than us” Lily

“It was hard because I haven’t played for two years, but it was still fun.” Ethan

“It was fun. I got to meet a lot of different people. I was scared when Mum was driving me, but I got confident afterwards.” Emily

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.

Bookclub brochures have been distributed. Orders and payment due at school by March 20th.
(Previous order is yet to arrive!)

COIL Friday FUNdraiser

Please leave orders with classroom teachers. Available each Friday are:

- Sausage Rolls $2 each,
- Juice Box $1.50
- Popcorn $1

2013 School Term dates
Term 1: 29 January (school teachers start) to 28 March
Term 2: 15 April to 28 June
Term 3: 15 July to 20 September
Term 4: 7 October to 20 December

COMMUNITY NEWS

Maldon Easter Fair would like to invite all talented young people to participate in our annual Young Buskers Competition. Held each year in beautiful Maldon on Good Friday, the competition offers an opportunity to showcase the best young talent in the region. Performances can be in song, dance, music, poetry or anything that will entertain a crowd. Proudly sponsored by Maldon Blue Light Youth Camp there are cash prizes up to $100 up for grabs for the best performers in 2 sections: Under 13 years and under 25 years. Entry is free and registration begins at 3.30 on the corner of High and Main Streets in Maldon for a 4pm start. Applications are available on the day. For further information or to grab an entry form, please contact Alisha Nolan on 0438752375.

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

Easter Storytime @ the Maldon Athenaeum Library.
4:30pm Friday 22nd March
Come and join in the Easter fun with stories, songs, craft activity and an Easter Egg Hunt.
97 High Street, Maldon
Call Christine for more details: 0402077509

Castlemaine PS Twilight Carnival
Friday 22nd March
From 5 pm - Carnival rides, Food stalls, Activity stalls, entertainment for the whole family, show bags with food vouchers, unlimited rides wristband and lots more now available for sale.

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
Cultural Diversity Week

As part of the year 4/5/6 unit of work on Australia, we have been learning about multiculturalism in Australia and all the benefits that immigrants bring with them to make our country so vibrant. Istvan Czehmester spoke about his experiences leaving Hungary, James Coakley about Scotland, and Jonathon Sparrow about England. We learnt so much about each country and culture and thank them very kindly for giving up their time to come and speak with us.