Hi Everyone,

Firstly the good news…..

As you will be aware we had four of our parent school councillors’ terms coming to an end and I called for nominations from the school community. I am pleased to announce that all four of our out-going school councillors renominated and in the absence of other nominations we do not need to have an election. It is therefore my great pleasure to welcome Fiona Edwards, Naomi O’Byrne, Kevin DeWit and Robert Sacco back to school council for another two years. Likewise for the DET membership of school council both Fiona Donald and Judy Norton renominated and they now commence another 2 year term. Thank you one and all.

Secondly the bad news…………

There is some kind of flu/gastro/bug going around at the moment. We are all catching it, even me. It is a debilitating thing that makes you sweat, vomit, get a bad headache and sleep a lot. Please watch your son/daughter carefully for signs. It seems to take a few days to get over. Luckily I had my case Friday night and over the weekend so I was fit for work on Monday!

Generally, the school is busy, the students are engaged and the staff are all working hard. Our first camp for the year departs for Garfield on Monday morning. Some of the Transition students have planned their own camp they are responsible for the cooking, cleaning and activity choice. On Thursday evening they will be running our annual junior BBQ for parents of junior school students to see the facilities and activities available at our own school camp. I am looking forward to seeing our junior families next Thursday evening!

Cheers Sue
PRINCIPAL AWARDS

Junior School

Oliver received his Principal’s award for being a Learner with write.

Andre received his Principal’s award for being Responsible while travelling on the bus.

Merzine received her award for being Respectful with classroom resources.

Hinckley received his award for being Safe when walking to the bus independently.

Middle School

Saaim received his Principal’s award for being Responsible and tidying up.

Samual received his award for being Responsible and cleaning up after himself.

Matthew received his Principal’s award for being Responsible and getting dressed after swimming.

Connor received his Principal’s award for being Responsible and taking a friend to the bus.

Senior School

Joshua received his Principal’s award for being a Learner and using the toilet.

Nawel received her award for being Responsible and helping with classroom jobs.

Minh-Chau received her Principal’s award for being Respectful and using her manners.

Hanna received her Principal’s award for being Safe when walking.
Room 28 participates in our Bike Riding Program on Monday mornings. During this time we discuss Safety - wearing our helmets, how to brake and also alert people that we are near by using the bell.

Isra, is at the stage of assisted pedalling, whilst Rebekah has mastered scooting and will be trialling a two-wheeler bike. Maha, Beni, Steve and Mauricio are getting familiar with being around a bike and with assistance are able to enjoy riding in our Junior Playground Bike Riding Track. Well done Room 28! Keep up the good work!
In room 10 we are practising our riding skills.

During morning circle in our classroom we take turns wearing the bike helmet so that we are ready for our Wednesday morning session when our physical education teacher, Joss takes special care to teach us all the skills needed to become skilled bike riders.

As you can see in our photos, we are making fantastic progress and really enjoying this outdoor experience during the warm weather.

In the future, we hope to achieve greater independence and to use this activity during our leisure time, both at school and at home.
Exploring the Horticulture Centre with Room 9
Intensive Interaction is used widely throughout the school as a communication style which engages our students who are learning to communicate socially. There’s nothing better than seeing the expression on students’ faces when communicating with them using Intensive Interaction. Intensive Interaction is about valuing a person for who they are, not who you think they should be.

What is Intensive Interaction?

Intensive Interaction is an approach that uses behaviour the learner may recognise as their own to develop a two-way dialogue through which the fundamentals of communication skills, the desire to communicate, participate and enjoy social interaction can be learnt.

Who is it for?

Learners who:

- have some or no language but may not communicate for social purposes
- demonstrate a high dependency on the interpretation of others to make themselves understood
- have limited or inconsistent way of communicating, leading to ambiguity
- are typically withdrawn or spend large amounts of time in ritualised, self-orientated behaviours
- show a lack of motivation to be with others

Please contact the speech team if you think Intensive Interaction might benefit your child and would like to know how to use it at home.
Coffee afternoons for parents who have a child with Down syndrome.

Come along and relax with a cuppa and chat with other parents.

Children welcome.

Taking place the first Wednesday of every month, except during school holidays. From 1.00 - 2.30pm

2016 dates:

2 March
13 April
4 May
1 June
13 July
3 August
7 September
5 October
2 November
7 December

Mentone Baptist Church
36 Harpley St Cheltenham
(Cnr Warrigal Rd and Harpley St)
Melway reference 87 B4

To RSVP or for more info, contact parent facilitator Valerie on 0409 850 191, or contact the MOIRA Parent Support Officer on 8552 2222/communitysupport@moira.org.au