

# NEWSLETTER

The **Moolap Community Group (MCG)** met on Monday this week and discussed upcoming events and activities. The main event this term will be the Colour Splat-tacular, which is the school's major fundraiser for the year and lots of fun for all involved. It is due to take place on Friday 7th March. Students and families are encouraged to seek donations and to come along and enjoy the afternoon- raising at least \$10 earns children a prize. Information booklets were sent home with children recently, please see the office if you need one. There was also a call-out recently via Facebook for volunteers to assist with the running of the afternoon. It's great to see the canteen up and running again this year, staffed by parent volunteers. We are very grateful to each of our volunteers, as without this assistance, it would not be able to operate. Year 5-6 students also take turns to assist in the canteen and pick up valuable skills in serving and taking money. In line with Child Safe procedures, all volunteers at school need a current Working with Children Check.

Other news from the MCG includes:

- The group are in the process of purchasing sports tops for students to wear when representing the school
- New volunteers for the canteen are most welcome (need WWCC). Please contact Bernie (Ollie and Hunter's mum) via the MCG Facebook group or leave a message at the office
- The school will be updating its 'wish list' of items for fundraising. We will begin by asking students in the Student Voice group.

Congratulations to all students who have been selected by their peers to perform the role of **Student Voice Representative (SVR)** this semester. Representatives will work with Miss Wiffen and our Student Voice Leaders on various projects to assist the school. This ensures that we have a very strong student voice in our work and encourages further pride in learning. Student Voice Leaders will be running a 'guess how many' competition in conjunction with the parents from the MCG. There is a large jar of mixed Easter Eggs on offer for the student with the correct guess. A gold coin donation will receive a guess.

## Parent Engagement

Thank you to all parents and families who were able to attend last week's Meet and Greet session in classrooms. Early connection is extremely important so that we can all work together to support your child's learning development. It was also really positive to hear the many stories from parents about their child's start to the year so far. If you find that you need to chat further about matters involving your child, please contact your child's teacher.

On Tuesday we held a **parent session on reading** to provide parents with information about the approach used at Moolap and also to provide some guidance with supporting reading at home. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend.

Some of the key information from the session included:

- The why and how of Moolap's Reading approach- how it is based on research into how the brain learns and retains key information that is key to early reading success
- What you can do at home to assist: It would be most beneficial for students to have a home reading routine in place where they can use the books that are sent home to practise. The types of materials that you might see at home from P-2 classrooms are what we call 'decodable books' (where they practise the sounds in words) and shared reading books (designed so you can share reading with your child to build their comprehension). In the Year 3-6 area, you may see decodable books, books at your child's reading level and passages (or paragraphs) that are linked to the sounds that are being worked on in class. Year 3-4 students may also see shared reading books to build their comprehension skills. Daily practise of reading skills at home can have a very positive impact on children's reading skills and confidence.

To assist parents with information about our reading and writing, our literacy blocks across the school are being adjusted to suit:

Strategies to assist 'reading comprehension' above include:

- Choral Reading: reading a passage aloud together as a small group or class
- Echo Reading: teacher reads aloud, modelling fluency, then students read the same passage aloud
- Close Reading: teacher reads a passage, students complete the next word or sentence. This is a more in-depth strategy involving analysis of text

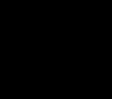
Mrs Bayly recently advertised a **parent program, 'Children Who Worry'**, which is offered at the school by Step-Thru Care. Three, one-hour sessions are planned, with a focus on practical day-to-day strategies to support parents of children who experience anxiety. It also offers caregivers an opportunity to ask questions and form connections with others in a similar position. Rachel Ward, the presenter, is an experienced educator as well as a Child and Family practitioner with STC, with a special interest in working with children with anxiety. The program is free and you can sign up by messaging Lauren Bayly on Dojo (she is connected to each class) or by leaving your name at the office. The dates are on Mondays: 17, 21 and 31 March.

Information regarding **School Council nominations** was sent out recently. Becoming a member of Council is a great way to get involved in the school and contribute to its overall governance. You do not need any experience or particular background, you just need to take an interest in the school to be involved. If you have any questions, please visit the office. We'd love to see a few new members this year, along with some returning members.

### **School Wide Positive Behaviours**

Our school follows the School Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPB) Framework to teach and reinforce expected behaviours. The framework is used in nearly every school in the state and has been used at Moolap for approximately 8 years. Based on our four values, we have a behaviour matrix that outlines the expected behaviours in the yard, in class and in areas such as toilets and when working online. This matrix was developed with student and parent input and is reviewed regularly. This provides students with very clear boundaries, but also ensures that our classrooms and spaces run smoothly and efficiently. The GOTCHA system is based on these expectations and our house token system encourages students to earn points for their overall house. Our classrooms and play spaces also have a flowchart that is enacted when students are not following expected behaviours. These flowcharts clearly outline the process that is followed.

Sometimes students need a 'reminder' to follow classroom expectations and then further follow up by staff if repeated negative behaviours are shown.



**NAPLAN Testing for students in Year 3 and 5** begins on the 12 March. Over a few days, students participate in reading, maths and language/ spelling assessments and complete a writing exercise using a prompt. All tests are conducted online (with the exception of Year 3 writing) and marked externally. They provide parents and the school with a snapshot of learning and results are usually made available to parents next term.

**A reminder to car users**, please be mindful of the road rules and etiquette around the front of the school when dropping off or picking up students. There are a few guidelines in place to ensure the safety of pedestrians in this busy space, including:

- A speed zone of 40 km/h outside the school
- One-way roads in the carpark
- Reversing in: the main car park is a 'reverse in' area. This is in place to ensure that car drivers can see pedestrians when taking off from a car space.
- Using the designated paths: All children (and parents) are encouraged to use the walkway behind the car spaces and not to cross between cars and the path.

Parents have also asked that we remind students who ride bikes to school about the safety considerations when riding to and from school. We have had reports of students weaving in and out of traffic and riding too fast on paths on surrounding roads and footpaths. If you are a parent of a child who rides to school, please talk to them about general road safety.

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

- Final Prep-Free Wednesday: 26 February
- Colour Splat-tacular: 7 March
- Labour Day Public Holiday: 10 March
- NAPLAN Testing begins: 12 March
- Children Who Worry: Parent workshop, session 1 here at school: Monday 17 March, 9am
- Whole-School Cross Country: 20 March
- Harmony Day: 21 March

School assemblies this term (fortnightly): 21 February, 7 March, 21 March

#### **Exciting News: Moolap Primary School Partners with The Resilience Project in 2025!**

We are excited to announce that Moolap Primary School is partnering with The Resilience Project (TRP) again in 2025 to enhance the wellbeing of our students, staff, and wider community. TRP is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies that help prevent mental ill health and build resilience in young people. Their evidence-based whole school wellbeing program focuses on strengthening our ability to deal with adversity, and we're proud to be implementing it in our school this year. As part of this initiative, students will engage in weekly lessons that focus on developing and practicing four key principles: Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness, and Emotional Literacy. These valuable skills will be nurtured both inside the classroom and beyond, ensuring that all members of our school community are supported in their mental health journey.

We are also excited to offer regular opportunities for parent/carer involvement. TRP provides an excellent resource through their Inspire Parent/Carer Hub, designed to keep families engaged in the program. The Hub offers helpful information on the principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness, and Emotional Literacy, along with the benefits of regularly practising them. Plus, it includes simple activities that families can practice together at home to support their wellbeing.

#### **Access the Inspire Parent/Carer Hub**

You can access the Hub at any time via the secure link below.

No account setup or login is required: [Inspire Parent/Carer Hub - TRP](https://theresilienceproject.com.au/2025-parent-carer-hub-inspire-3/)  
<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/2025-parent-carer-hub-inspire-3/>

We look forward to partnering with you in this exciting initiative to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students and families throughout 2025!

**Peter Knight**  
**Principal**

