



## Dates to Remember

Friday	5 <sup>th</sup>	February	Back to school picnic lunch – students only
Tuesday	9 <sup>th</sup>	February	School Captain Applications close
Friday	12 <sup>th</sup>	February	Nominations for School Council open
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	February	Parent Helpers Training Program – 9.30am
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup>	February	Parent Teacher Meetings commence this week. Times TBC
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	February	Parent Helpers Training Program – 7.00pm
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	February	School Council meeting
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	February	Nominations for School Council close
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	February	District Swimming Sports
Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	March	PTFA AGM
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup>	March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	March	Gater Games
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	March	2022 Foundation Tours – 10.00am, 2.30pm and 5.00pm
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup>	March	School Council AGM – 7.30pm
Thursday	18 <sup>th</sup>	March	School Photos
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March	Grade 5 & 6 Leadership Day
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup>	March	GATEWays
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	March	GATEWays
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup>	April	Last Day of Term 1 – 2.30pm Dismissal
Friday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	April	Good Friday

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

A very warm welcome back to Mountain Gate Primary for 2021 and to those new families who have joined our school community, I extend a big hello! I am excited about getting to know you all and look forward to an exciting year filled with promise and adventure.

Our littlest Gaters, (Foundation students) arrived on the first day with their families, dressed in brand new uniforms, shiny shoes and lots of big smiles and happy faces, ready to start school. They very quickly said goodbye to their families instantly settling in and after only a few days look like they have been here for ever!

This year our priorities are: learning, catch-up and extension, happy, active and healthy kids and connected schools. We will also continue to focus on providing differentiated learning experiences and to empower students to contribute consistently to their own learning.

On Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January our staff engaged in professional learning to plan, learning experiences that build strong relationships and a dynamic community of learners with shared values, goal setting, a positive mindset, feedback, independence, team work, problem solving and it's 'Great to be a Gater' as the focus. These skills are not randomly selected but rather are embedded in the Personal and Social capability of the Victorian Curriculum.

Our students spent much of Terms 2 and 3 learning remotely and our families and teachers made an exceptional effort to provide continuity of teaching and learning to students during this time. For many of our students, regular high quality teaching in 2021 will be enough to help them progress to the expected level of learning. Some students will benefit from additional intensive learning support in 2021. Through DET's Tutor Learning Initiative, over the course of the year many students will be working individually and within small groups with targeted teaching to 'catch up' or extend their learning.

Over this year Miss Jackway (Assistant Principal) and our Grade 5 & 6 teachers, along with other teachers in the Knox Network, will be participating in professional learning enhancing knowledge and skills in 'Student Voice' through the Quaglia Institute with a view to empowering our senior students to have greater understanding of their personal attributes, leadership skills, resilience and learning.

In the week commencing February 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be holding our 'Getting to Know You' Parent Teacher meetings. More information will come home to you shortly about this.

## COVID NORMAL

As with all organisations we are mandated to abide by all Government and DET COVID rules and regulations. This morning's news reminds us of how quickly the situation can change and how acutely aware we need to be of always acting in a COVID safe manner – particularly with sanitising, face masks and social distancing. I am respectfully requesting that you too are mindful of these when on site and around school boundaries.

Meeting gathering guidelines and planning for events becomes problematic and at this stage we are unable to conduct our Monday morning Assembly in the hall/gym with families. At this stage we have set a date for our Gater Games and are planning to have them, but this will depend on Government guidelines at the time.

We have additional cleaning still happening at the end of the school day and children are actively encouraged to sanitise. Please remember that if your child is unwell they need to stay home and we ask that you notify us. If they become unwell at school we will be calling home to have them collected.

**An enormous THANK YOU** to the parents and children who came up to our school over the holidays and did some much needed weeding, sweeping and cleaning up of litter. Your time and effort is certainly appreciated. Sometimes families ask if we want some gardening done and I am always very happy to say YES so don't be shy if you are interested in helping out with our grounds for an hour or so and it can be at any time that suits you!

**And finally**, please remember communication is the key, so feel free to book an appointment with your child's class teacher, Miss Jackway or myself if you have concerns or need any support, help or advice.

Mountain Gate Primary School has great students, staff and families achieving great outcomes! All signs point to another incredible and productive year ahead of us.

*Great to be a Gater!*

*Cheryl Sampson*

Principal



**Cheryl Sampson | Principal**

Adele Avenue

Ferntree Gully 3156

T 9758 2811



*Mutual Respect  
Appreciation  
Attentive Listening  
Right to Pass  
Aim High*

---

## CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS

Mountain Gate Primary School is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing or reducing these risks. We have robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.

As a community we support and respect all children. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability. Mountain Gate Primary School has specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

- Everyone connected to our school can help children be safe.
- We have zero tolerance for any abuse of children.
- There will be clear boundaries about how adults in our school community may interact with the children here set out in our school's Child Safe Code of Conduct.
- The child safe standards apply to school staff (including volunteers and contractors), visitors and students' family members.
- Staff members (including volunteers) will receive training and support to understand and carry out their responsibilities under the standards.

**Please read the MGPS Code of Conduct which is attached.**

### VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS AT SCHOOL

There are also regulations around Working with Children Checks and Volunteers in Schools. We are proactive by ensuring that we abide by Government regulations and all community members who work with children have a Working with Children Check.

**Whenever you visit our school, including helping in a class, please remember to come past the office and sign the visitors book.** This is a requirement to ensure we are always looking out for the best interests and safety of all our children.

If you ever require help or have concerns about a child's safety please contact our school safety officers – Cheryl Sampson (Principal) and Lissa Jackway (Assistant Principal) via the Office or phone 97582811

---

## PRIVACY COLLECTION – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us. School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

---

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

---

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Nominations for School Council will open Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February and will close Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like to nominate yourself for School Council please call into the Office during this week to complete a form. Retiring members (after 2 years) are also eligible to re-nominate. Please contact the Office or Mrs. Sampson if you would like to know more about School Council.

---

## FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Parent contributions are now due. Many thanks to our parents who have paid their financial contribution for 2021. Please come and meet with Jenny Lamont (Business Manager) if you would like to arrange a payment plan. Parent payments are an essential source of funds for a school to operate effectively and enable us to provide the many programs and resources we provide for our students.

---

## ANAPHYLAXIS – IMPORTANT PLEASE!

Please be aware that several of our students have extreme allergic reactions to some foods – especially nuts. We ask that you take this serious issue into consideration when you are packing your child's lunch box or sending food along for sharing. Whilst individual children are alert to particular triggers, we can all assist by reducing the likelihood of an anaphylactic episode by avoiding nuts being brought to school and encouraging students to use the anti-bacterial hand wash available in all classrooms.

---

## COLLECTING CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL

When collecting your child from school for dental or medical appointments, parents will need to complete the sign out book at the office and then collect your child from the classroom. Please allow plenty of time to get to your appointment, as we are unable to call children to the office. We strive to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum to maximize student learning.

---

## UNEXPLAINED STUDENT ABSENCE NOTIFICATION

All schools are required to contact parents/guardians as soon as practicable when student absence is unexplained.

The Department of Education conducted a review of the Attendance Guidelines for schools in Term 4, 2017. The review and resulting changes to the Guidelines help ensure the safety of school-aged children during school hours and that schools are supported in their duty of care obligations.

**The new requirement for schools under these Guidelines is to contact parents/guardians as soon as practicable on the day of a student's absence.**

---

---

At MGPS we know that many of the absences are not unexplained and parents have a sick child at home. Unless we are notified this will automatically become an unexplained absence and we will need to follow up **so we ask for your assistance with this please by notifying the school via phone 9758 2811 or email [mountain.gate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mountain.gate.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) by 9.30am on the day of an absence or prior to this if it is a planned absence/appointment.**

---

## CSEF (Camps Sports and Excursions Fund)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

To be eligible for CSEF you must hold a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card valid on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and a copy of the card must be supplied to the office with your application. Forms will be sent home shortly.

---

## PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL

Personal property is often brought to school by students – often quite expensive electrical equipment, toys, sporting goods etc. Please be advised that the Department does not hold insurance for personal property and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Though we try our best to ensure these items are returned home safely, we cannot be responsible for the damage or loss of items and therefore discourage students from bringing unnecessary or valuable items to school.

---

## SCHOOL CROSSING

It is timely to remind all students and parents of the importance of using our school crossings. To ensure your safety, the school crossings and pedestrian gates should be used at all times. **Please do not park in school staff carparks or use them as a thoroughfare – it is totally unnecessary and unsafe.**

---

## SUNSMART

In accordance with Mountain Gate P.S. Sunsmart Policy students are required to wear their school sun hat every day in Term One and Term Four please. School hats are available for purchase at the office. Broadbrim hats (size S,M, L & XL) \$15.00.

---

## HOUSE T-SHIRT ORDERS

House t-shirts are worn at regular events during the year such as Gater Games. Tribes activities and house sporting days. These t-shirts enhance team spirit whilst adding a great splash of colour. Once again we are offering you the opportunity to purchase a house t-shirt.

Please return orders and payment by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February**. Please note that these shirts are a small fit and it is recommended that students try them on prior to ordering. Sizing samples are available at the Office. If you are unsure of your child's house colour, or you have lost the order form, please call into the office. House T-shirts are \$20.00.

---



**CLASSROOM HELPERS/ FOUNDATION PARENTS**

*Would you like to assist in your child's classroom this year?  
Or do you just want to know how you can help your Foundation child  
at home?*

To become a Classroom Helper all you have to do is complete the Classroom Helpers training session and have a Working with Children card.

You are invited to participate in a training/ session in the library on:

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February (9.30am)**

**OR**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 p.m.**

This session will also provide Foundation parents with strategies to help their child with reading.

The session takes approximately one and a half hours. Unfortunately, we cannot cater for children at this session.

Lisa Moloney

---

I would like to participate in the Classroom Helpers training session on

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February following assembly**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7:00 pm**

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_





Newsletter

# A warm welcome from Camp Australia

A very warm welcome to everyone, and a special welcome to families new to the school and to Camp Australia. For those who know us, Camp Australia may look a little different than you remember, but we are still here to provide a supportive **outside of school hours space** for children to play, connect, learn and grow through engaging experiences.



## Your OSHC.

Introducing *Your OSHC* by Camp Australia, our tailored Before School, After School and Pupil Free Day experiences.

At *Your OSHC*, we aim to inspire your child to grow into who they want to be. They can enjoy intentional experiences guided by our engaged educators, so all children can learn, grow and have fun.



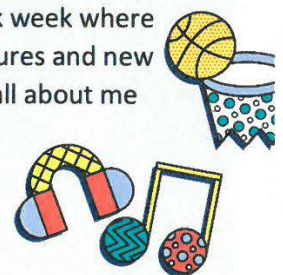
## Welcome

Fran and Samantha are looking forward to seeing our wonderful returning families back at O.S.H.C and welcoming for the first time the new families to our service.

## Activities we're running over the next 2 weeks:

This week has been our Welcome / Welcome back week where we have been discussing our School Break adventures and new friends made in class. Focusing on belonging and all about me (you).

Next week we are celebrating the Lunar New year with exciting Chinese Zodiac arts and crafts.



## It's free to register

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at [pp.campastralia.com.au](http://pp.campastralia.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.



## What's on this term

- Rocketeers Launch
- Virtual Parent Information Sessions
- Handball Championships
- Plus more to come!