PIRATE DAY

Ahoy me hearties!!! Last Friday (which also happened to be Halloween....spooky!) our Grade 1s and 2s celebrated Pirate Day. All students looked great dressed as a band of raggedy pirates as they participated in lots of pirate activities, including sentencing Mr Snell to ‘walk the plank’. The very talented parents of our Grade 1s and 2s served up the most incredible pirate feast for lunch and then our little pirates headed down to Strzelecki House to sing some pirate shanties to the residents.
FUN DAY

Our Fun Day was held on a beautiful sunny Friday and what a great day full of fun it was for everyone! There were rides, stalls, yummy food and lots of free activities to keep everyone busy for the day. As usual huge thanks need to go to our wonderful Parents’ Club lead by the absolutely incredible Nat Jones who worked tirelessly to make sure that everything was perfect on the day. Thank you also to all the students, in particular the Grade 5s and 6s who came up with lots of really original and fun ideas for stalls which they ran all day by themselves. Each class in the school did a terrific job with their stalls - thanks go to all the staff and students for their hard work. Thank you also to all the parents and families who did not hesitate to pitch in and assist in any way they could, including cleaning up at the end of the day. Our terrific school community also deserve thanks for coming along and supporting our day. We are very lucky we have such a wide group of people who value and support our school.
**TIN TIN DAY**

On Monday 20th October we had a very special lunchtime in the library thanks to Mr Houghton. A huge crowd of students were lined up outside the library at 1.00pm waiting to check out the wonderful Tin Tin display that Mr Houghton provided. Along with lots of Tin Tin books there were samples of the early stages of the Tin Tin illustrations, mugs, posters and a toy Tin Tin and Snowy. Mr Houghton had the students enthralled as he explained the history of Tin Tin and how the books were made. It was a very successful display and the library’s Tin Tin books were being borrowed like hot cakes! Thanks so much to Mr Houghton for organising this special event for our children - it really was terrific!
GRADE 5/6 CAMP

The Grade 5/6 Melbourne camp was held during the first week of Term 4. Students had the opportunity to visit places such as the Shrine of Remembrance, Graffiti Alley, St Paul’s Cathedral, Chinatown, Southbank, Immigration Museum and lots more. They also had a wonderful time looking around the Vic Market, Old Melbourne Gaol and the Melbourne Museum. Nights were filled with lots of fun at Bounce and the IMAX theatre and the camp finished with skating at the Melbourne Icehouse and a ride on the Melbourne Star. Thanks to the staff and parents who made this such a wonderful camp.

Extracts from students writing.

Johnny – The Melbourne Watchhouse:
People were screeching like little girls inside a freezing cold, dark, cell... Until the door swung open, "OUT YA GET" roared Sgt Snipper. Sgt Snipper was a mad man, he told us to spread our fingers, lift our tongues and worst of all, pick our feet up to see if we stepped in dog poo... No not really, it was to see if we were smuggling weapons in our shoes!

Josh A – Lygon Street:
Lygon Street is an exquisite and interesting street. You can take one glance and get any kind of Italian foods you can think of, off the top of your head. All the restaurants differed from one another, some more vibrant and extravagant than others. Two
particular things stood out to me; the restaurants were either Italian or Italian! The other thing was that most restaurants didn’t get enough recognition for their beautifully made pastas and pizzas. It was amusing watching the members of the public get dragged into restaurants by their owners.

**Kelsi – Icehouse:**
Despite it being very cold, the size of the rink was mind blowing. It was a bit daunting! Especially when there is a 50% chance I was going to fall on the rock-hard, cold floor. It was an outstanding feeling gliding on the smooth, but slippery ice. Soon I got used to the unnatural feeling and it turned out to be super spectacular!
SOMERS CAMP

A group of 15 Mirboo North Primary School 5/6 students spent 9 days at Somers School Camp. They participated in a number of challenging but fun activities such as the challenge swing, flying fox, abseiling, rock climbing, archery, boating as well as some other interesting activities. All students were involved in night activities such as a concert, disco, bush dancing, campfire, bush walking and a tabloid sports competition. The kids were also responsible for doing duties such as table hosts (who waited on everyone), keeping their huts clean and canteen managers. It was a fantastic experience for all who went and they all should be proud of their efforts.
FOOTY DAY

The last day of Term 3 was Footy Day at MNPS. The school was a sea of footy jumpers, scarves, beanies and flags as students arrived dressed in their favourite football club colours. Footy songs were sung at assembly, yummy hot dogs were eaten (courtesy of our terrific Parents’ Club) and at recess the courageous Grade 6 students took on the staff in a hotly contended game of football. The students gave it their all but unfortunately were no match for the extremely enthusiastic staff members. Big thanks to Sean Maxwell for umpiring and to all the other students and families who came along to barrack (mostly for the kids’ team!). A great day was had by all. Thanks to our SRC for organising this day which raised over $120 for the “Jean-e-us” Animal Shelter in Boolarra.
SCHOOL PRODUCTION – “STEP UP”

On Tuesday 16th September the primary school students were involved in our whole school production of “Step Up”. Following a very successful matinee put on for an audience of parents, families, friends and residents of Strzelecki House the students regrouped and performed an even more finely tuned evening performance. Both shows were filled with colour, music, acting, drumming, singing and lots of fun. There were many sleepy students and staff at school the following day. School productions are an enormous job but they are worth the effort as students develop a wide range of skills throughout the journey. The most obvious being the confidence that grows in the children. Our school would like to thank the many people who were involved in making our shows a huge success this year. We couldn’t have done it without you!!
SCHOOL PRODUCTION
REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are well underway for our bi-annual whole school extravaganza production which is entitled “Step Up”. We are extremely lucky this year to have the services of our local drama teacher extraordinaire Liesl Reymers who, along with our own wonderful Mrs Bolton, have undertaken the mammoth task of writing, casting, directing and producing the whole show!! The students have taken to their roles with extreme enthusiasm and many recesses and lunchtimes have been spent rehearsing and fine-tuning the play. Our hard-working and talented parents are also on board with the costuming being carried out by a very keen group lead by the amazing Kylie Cannizzo. “Step Up” also features our school choir, our drummers and all classes performing the dances they have learnt in the Footsteps program this term. This production has a very strong environmental theme and focuses on “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” and utilises some of the terrific work done in our art classes about endangered species. “Step Up” will be performed on Tuesday 16th September.
BOOK WEEK DRESS-UP DAY

A beautiful sunny day greeted us last Friday as our students dressed up as their favourite book characters. Our SRC had planned this day for a few weeks earlier to coincide with Book Week but had to postpone it due to lots of snuffles and runny noses keeping both students and staff away from school. However, it was definitely worth the wait with everyone getting into the spirit of the day and prizes given to the best costumes in each year level. There were lots of Harry Potters, Where’s Wallys, Dr Seuss characters, princesses, superheroes and sportspeople. A big commendation to our Acting Principal Mr Snell and Acting Assistant Principal Mr Turner who came as “Wal” and “Cooch” from Footrot Flats complete with a surprise visit from “Dog”, and also to Liesl McGrath who was a lovely green coloured “Fiona” from Shrek. A huge thank you to all the parents who helped their children come up with such wonderful costumes, we definitely have some very imaginative and talented families in our school community.
NEW FACES

Practical experience in real schools is vital in developing good teachers. At Mirboo North Primary School we are fortunate enough to be able to have the assistance of many young student teachers in our classrooms. This placement is designed to be an interactive experience which benefits both student teachers and children. Student teachers are encouraged to participate in classroom activities, work in small groups and one to one with students under the direction of the classroom teachers. At the moment we have a number of bright, happy faces gaining this valuable experience. Our school welcomes - Emma Phillips, a fourth year teaching student who is working with Mrs Joustra in the Grade 3/4 room; Anderson Edwards, another fourth year student who has been working with the Grade 1/2s and Mrs Hobbin; Kathleen Borshman, a first year Masters Primary Education student in Ms Linton’s class with the Grade 5/6s; Avis McInnes who is working with our Preps and Ms Calafiore; Madeline Didjurgies, third year student who is lucky enough to be working with Mr Reed and the Grade 5/6s; and Holly Manuzza who is also a third year student and is in with Mrs Bolton and her lovely Grade 1/2 class. Both staff and students are thrilled to have these student teachers working with us. They are so enthusiastic, cheerful and professional; it’s a pleasure to have them at our school.
MARK CARTHEW VISIT

On Friday 15th August children’s author Mark Carthew visited Mirboo North Primary School as part of our Book Week celebrations. Mark is an award winning editor and children’s author. He is well known for his many books and his educational sessions exploring wordplay, music, movement, drama, jokes, rhymes and riddles. Mark’s books include “The Gobbling Tree”, “The Moose is Loose” and “Five Little Owls”. Our students really enjoyed Mark’s sessions which involved lots of humour, wordplay and music, and they were enthralled when he read two of his books to them. Mark also told the students how he got the idea for “The Gobbling Tree” after he noticed some children getting things stuck in a tree while they were trying to retrieve a ball, something they could all relate to. Mark’s quick-fire style had the students laughing, singing, reading and generally having a great time.

Mark’s visit was part of the YABBA (Young Australians Best Book Awards) Ambassadors Project which has been generously funded by a grant from the Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund.
100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

....97, 98, 99, 100! As part of their Maths program the students in Prep have been counting the number of days of school since the start of the year, and each morning they have been making and recording the number day of school. Yesterday, Tuesday 29th July was our 100th Day of School for 2014. To celebrate the prep students took a glimpse into the future and came to school dressed up how they thought they are going to look when they are 100 years old. Throughout the day the students also made crowns and 100 framed glasses to celebrate our milestone.

After lunch we walked down to Strzelecki House to perform our favourite eight songs to the resi’s. After their performance the prep students gave the resi’s a gift of a crown or glasses, which they had made earlier in the day especially for them. Preps were also introduced to Henry who is 99 years old and some had the opportunity to have a photograph with him (see photo). Thank you to all the prep parents for supporting our day and helping their children dress up for the day. A special thanks to the parents who came in and helped with our activities and walked with us to Strzelecki House and back. We all had a great day! Paula and Kate
Here’s what the kids thought...

Yesterday it was our 100th day of school. I made a crown and glasses. We went to Strzelecki House to sing and dance. It was fun. By Jarvis

Yesterday it was our 100th day of school. I wore my pyjamas. We celebrated. I made a crown and glasses. I liked the day of celebrating. By Toby

Yesterday I made a crown and we made glasses and we went to Strzelecki House to do singing and dancing. I dressed up as an old man. By Fletcher

Yesterday it was our 100th day of school. I made a crown and glasses. We sang eight songs. By Marcus

Yesterday it was our 100th day of school. We made a crown and glasses. I went to Strzelecki House and we did dancing and singing. By Marley
ART

We are so lucky here at Mirboo North to have incredible teachers in our Art Room. Here is a small selection of some of the wonderful work our students have completed so far this year. We have some really talented artists!!!
GRADE PREP - JKS/JPC

“THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT WENT TO SEA!!!”

THE WORM & THE SLEEP

THE FROG

The Great Sheep Shenanigans

Sheep!

The Lamb-a-oo

Lazy Ozzie

10 Hooting Owls
Believing in your own creativity was the theme on Friday 25th July when our school was lucky enough to host a visit from author/illustrator Michael Salmon. Michael is a prolific author with over 170 books and 18 million sales worldwide. Michael held two sessions on the day - the first one for our Grades Prep/1/2/3/4 and the second for Grades 5/6 followed by a book signing. There were laughs galore and lots of fun as Michael kept the students entertained with his incredible cartoons and constant chatter. Apart from drawing some of his well-known characters Michael had the students in stitches as he drew caricatures of Tom C, Codey J, Jed B and Talei F, as well as asking two students (Jarvis B and Leigh J) to take on the challenge of drawing a picture of Michael himself. These pictures will be on display in our library for the next couple of weeks. The visit is part of the 2014 YABBA Ambassadors Project and was generously funded by the Copyright Agency’s Cultural Fund and organised to help celebrate Book Week this term. We also look forward to a visit from author Mark Carthew for later this term, once...
again thanks to YABBA (Young Australians Best Book Awards Council).
PINK DAY FOLLOW-UP

McGrath Foundation - Following the very successful “Pink Day” last term our School Representative Council received a Certificate of Thanks from the McGrath Foundation for raising the amount of $435.65. This is an outstanding effort by our SRC, well done.

Pictured are SRC members Meaghan, Ashleigh and Matthew with the certificate.

THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT

Grade Prep Art - Our preps have been hard at work in the Art Room and created these wonderful boats based on the book “The Owl and the Pussycat”. They used a CD as a base, then made a “pea green” boat with a sail, placed an owl and a pussycat made from corks in the boat and finally named the boat after themselves. They look absolutely terrific on display in our library. Thanks Preps and Mrs Murden!!
GRADE 2 ELEPHANTS

Grade 2 JJH have also been hard at work in the Art Room making these terrific elephants. They will then use the elephants and the “Stop Go Motion” app on the iPads to make their very own short animated film.
GRADE 1 & 2 DINOSAUR EXCURSION

On Monday 23rd June our Grade 1s and 2s spent a very special day at the incredible Dinosaur Adventures exhibition in Melbourne. Dinosaur Adventures is a prehistoric world full of life-size moving dinosaurs that move and roar. As well as the amazing animatronics our students were able to become palaeontologists as they chipped away at “fossils”. There was dinosaur sand art, a dinosaur library, inflatable dinosaurs and lots more fun. Here are some reports from our students.

“Yesterday we went to the Dinosaur show. There were statues that moved around. I dressed up as a palaeontologist and I put funny glasses and a white coat on. I cracked open an egg with a hammer and a screwdriver and I found a dinosaur skeleton. I saw a T-Rex and it was big and I saw a triceratops. I think this was the best place ever!” by Kaylee

“Yesterday we went to the Dinosaur show. It was at the Caulfield Racecourse. I saw lots of animatronic dinosaurs. I loved bouncing on all three of the dinosaur castles. My favourite was breaking open the plaster egg. I got a T-Rex. I didn’t make my wooden dinosaur there so I’m going to make it at home. I had an awesome day.” By Zoe
“Yesterday I went to the Dinosaur fun show. I had so much fun. I wish my family could come too. I put some of the wooden dinosaur together and I did the rest at home with Ma.”
By Scarlett
**GREAT BARRIER REEF**

Students in 5/6, class SSL, have been integrating their subjects to learn about the Great Barrier Reef. Students learnt fascinating facts earlier in the year when studying the geography of Australia. This was then enhanced when they watched the children’s program “Behind the News” as they learnt that the Reef was under threat due to the expansion of a coal mine at Abbotts Point. Despite the non-biased news report, all students elected to vote for the natural wonder of the Barrier Reef, as they hoped it would still be around when they were ready to explore the world!

They wrote persuasive texts to inform the Marine Park and the Environmental Minister why they would like the Reef to remain untouched. They also participated in science experiments where they looked at what the dirt and oil may do to the salty water. Then they constructed a magnificent class piece of the Barrier Reef in Art, which was auctioned at the Art Show and sold for $650 as well as making 3D fish in their art classes. The students chose partners and wrote scripts in English for their “3D fish & other characters”...

*Because* they then used all of this learnt information, their 3D artwork, their sludgy water from science, their well-rehearsed fish
voices and their ICT skills, to create mini-movies with the Library iPads!

The students worked independently to create fun iMovies, which hopefully put across a strong message. The following photos demonstrate the students at work... as their iMovies are still a work in progress. Hopefully you get to see them online soon!
SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 22 May MNPS held its House Cross Country at the Recreation Reserve. Congratulations to all students for an amazing day!

The weather was kind, there were lots of parents and families cheering on the students, Mr Turner was cycling around the track and Mrs Rogers and Ms Dunsmuir were scoring. Well done to all the students who ran to the very best of their ability and never gave up! The junior school also put in a massive effort for their Houses down on the oval.

This year, Fraser brought the points home and was the overall winner on the day; however it was one of the closest results ever this year with the other houses only just missing out. Age group winners this year were – Leigh Jowett and Jaime Chila, Talei Falkingham and Matthew Cook, Sascha Turner and Ella Snell, and Jesse Chila and Paige Thompson.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a huge success including MNPS staff, the Parents’ Club who provided well deserved icy-poles, the Recreation Reserve Committee and all the parents, friends and families who assisted with setting up, directing students around the course, running around the oval with the junior school students, and lots and lots of support and cheering!

Pictured are winning captains, age group winners and place getters.
KITCHEN GARDEN

Every Tuesday lunchtime (weather permitting), children are welcome to put their green thumb to good use and join our gardening club. Over the last two weeks the kitchen garden has seen a bit of an overhaul with the summer vegetables out and winter vegetables starting to be planted. Our keen gardeners have helped prepare the garden beds by turning the soil and under the guidance of our expert gardeners, Robyn and her parents Bob and Marg. The kids have planted radish, beetroot, spinach, lettuce and cabbage. We already have two more garden beds ready for planting and next Tuesday hope to plant peas and baby carrots.
COCONUT ICE MICE - MNH

Recently Grade 3/4 MNH made some wonderful coconut ice mice in the community room. Here are some photos of their efforts.
**PINK DAY**

On the last day of Term 1 our School Representative Council (SRC) held a “Pink Day” at the school to support the McGrath Foundation - students had a free dress day and most dressed up with a splash or more of pink (even some of the boys!). SRC also sold pink cupcakes and, as you can see from the photos, they were inundated with donations from our wonderful parents and staff. Through the sale of cupcakes and gold coin donations for free dress day SRC raised an incredible $435.95 for the Foundation. This is a terrific effort - thank you to everyone who supported the SRC in their first fundraising effort for the year.
Wednesday 2nd April was a terrific Sports Day with the weather holding and great support from parents and community. Fraser House won a closely contested competition with only a few points between all 4 houses. The participation points and relay events really were important in the end in deciding who won. The Grade 6 champions were both stand outs with Leigh Jowett and Stephanie Parker both scoring 22 points each with the next closest competitors on 19. Congratulations to both of them.
STRZELECKI HOUSE VISIT

Grade 1/2 (JAR and JSB) visited Strzelecki House on Tuesday to read and sing to the residents. The children behaved excellently, showing respect towards their older friends singing three songs, giving out cards and posters with “Have a happy day” written on them and finishing off by reading their share books. The residents loved having us and we can’t wait to go again.
GRADES 3/4 SCIENCE

Science has been the focus in the Grade 3/4 area this term, particularly plants. Our students planted a bean seed in a container and placed it inside a cardboard box. They then cut a small hole at the top of the box to allow light in. The next step was to construct a “maze” using cardboard panels inside the box. When the beans sprout they will (hopefully) grow up through the maze towards the light.
GRADES 1/2 OCEANS AND SEAS

Our Grade 1/2s have recently been studying oceans and seas, and all the wonderful unusual creatures that live in them. As well as some wonderful artwork showcasing the oceans, Grade 1/2 JAR have made an undersea cubbyhouse for their room using cardboard boxes, which they have painted and decorated with an oceans theme.

They plan to hang lots of fish and seaweed above the cubby so it really feels like it’s on the ocean floor.
On Friday 21st February a special assembly was held to present our school and house captains with their badges which were given out by our School Council President Ang Cannizzo and our principal Wendy Inman. The assembly was followed by a special morning tea for all the captains and their families. Congratulations to our school captains Eryn Elger and Patrick Lewis, vice-captains Abby McColl and Leigh Jowett and also to Clarke House captains Charlee Eaves and Jordan Cummaudo, vice-captains Georgia Cummaudo and Ben Jones, Fraser House captains Lily Worsfold and Luke Vanderburgh, vice-captains Jasmine Woods and Gavin Hart, Gould House captains Jaime Chila and Josh Hillman, vice-captains Stephanie Parker and Bailey Campbell, and finally Jackson House captains Taleisha Snell and Johnny Lidgerwood and vice-captains Miki Hilliar and Richard Taylor.
DISTRICT SWIMMING SPORTS –
19/2/2014

It was a beautiful sunny morning yesterday as the MNPS District Swimming Team made their way to Korumburra. The weather deteriorated rapidly, with a downpour leaving us all feeling rather soggy but our 32 swimmers performed beautifully, with a number of students being awarded ribbons and everyone acquitting themselves very well. A special mention goes out to Hayden Barnes who was awarded Age Champion for the 9-year old boys and to the team of 10 individual swimmers and two relay teams who will progress to the Division Swimming Sports, to be held at Korumburra next Friday (28th of February). Well done Sascha, Patrick, Hayden, Steph, Johnny, Alexander, Kelsi, Lily, Mia and Charlee who will be competing in individual events and to Nikita, Gemma, Flynn, Jasmine and Willow who will make up the 11-year old Girls and 10-year old Girls relay teams. A HUGE congratulations to all our competitors yesterday, you should all be very proud of your efforts, we are!! A big thank you to all the parents who came and supported our athletes, and to Kate Vansittart, Jodie Pincini and Wendy Inman who all had jobs yesterday and carried them out like pros!!
Congratulations to Clarke house for winning the MNPS 2014 Swimming Sports. Congratulations also to all students in all the houses who had a go and competed on the day! It was great to see so many people competing in multiple events and filling in events above their age groups. It was a fantastic effort by one and all!

The Grade 6 Champions for 2014 were Paul Rajic and Natalie Barnes. Well done Paul and Natalie. The Individual Medley winners were Lily Maxwell and Alexander Duncan. Congratulations Lily and Alexander.

Thank you to the following people and groups for a well-run day - Parents’ Club for their yummy hot dogs and food to keep everyone sustained! All the families and friends who helped with jobs, such as line allocations, time-keeping, starting, marshalling, and any other little job, big or small! Also well done to the newly elected House Captains – for their encouragement and support to all students within their houses and for organising the relays.

And a massive thank you to Jess Gordon who organised and led the school throughout the whole swimming program and ran an excellent day!
The Mirboo North Primary School Captains for 2014 were announced at school assembly last week. They are –

School Captains – Eryn Elger and Patrick Lewis

School Vice-Captains – Abbey McColl and Leigh Jowett

Congratulations to these four students who all showed the necessary skills and confidence to represent our school for 2014. There was an outstanding field of students vying for the positions of school captains this year and the decision was not an easy one. Well done to all who tried out for these roles. The selection process included giving a speech in front of their peers and school staff, an interview and a mock tour of the school for new students. The captains will be presented with their badges at a formal assembly in a few weeks. House captains and School Representative Council (SRC) members will be elected in the next few days. Pictured are Patrick, Leigh, Eryn and Abbey.