Principal’s Report
Congratulations to our swimmers who went to the Zone Swimming Carnival last week and swam their personal best. While they didn't win a championship the students from Melrose Park won the Sportsmanship Trophy.

Congratulations to all the swimmers who represented Melrose Park Public school with great pride and outstanding behaviour.

Thank you to the teachers, parents/grandparents (drivers) and supporters who gave of their time to support our students at this event.

Teacher Professional Development
This term your teachers are busy working after school and in their own time preparing to implement the new curriculums of English, Maths and Science. At times teachers will participate in Professional Learning during the day resulting in a teacher being away from class. Whilst away all teachers leave their learning program for another teacher to implement meaning that students are not disrupted in their learning.

Another exciting learning project that our senior classes will undertake this year is a project called Climate Clever Kids. Ms Riley, Mrs Piper and Mrs Grover are developing a project based learning program that develops a range of skills to look scientifically at the issue of climate and change.

Wellbeing and supporting students with additional needs are a priority here at Melrose. Teachers have been undertaking courses to support students and are investigating programs to build resilience and coping strategies across students of all ages.

Professional opportunities are also offered overseas and on occasion a teacher may seek an exchange or scholarship to explore further learning in another country. Mrs Grover had this opportunity last year to explore ICT around the world.

I commend our teachers who undertake these courses to build their professional knowledge and enhance the learning outcomes of our students. “Casual” teachers are employed on a day to day basis to replace a teacher who is at a course and they are all professional members of the Department of Education and Communities.

Working Bee
Now that the weather is cooler our annual Working Bee is set for Sunday 24th March.

There are many jobs around the school that need completing.

West Ryde Street Fair
Once again in 2013, West Ryde will host the annual "West Ryde Easter Parade and Fair". The Parade and Fair is planned for Saturday 23rd March 2013 from 9.00am to 3.00pm on the Saturday before Good Friday in Market Street, West Ryde.

Book in the morning of Saturday 23rd March to come and parade with Melrose Park PS as we promote our school as part of the West Ryde St Fair. The Street Fair is held to promote Easter and generate community spirit in the area.

It is easy to do. Students wear their sports uniform and Easter hats and wave to people as we participate in a small parade on the way to West Ryde Shopping Centre. Parents can walk behind the students as well to join in the fun. Our school was fortunate to win a great cash prize last year.

Please send back the return slip if you can participate in the Saturday activity.
Swim Scheme
All places for swim scheme have now been filled. A note will be going home to remind you of the items student need to bring and the routine that will be followed. Please remember that payment should be completed before 18th March.

ICAS competitions
International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) take place annually through schools throughout Australia, NZ, Asia and South Africa. The competition is organised through the University of NSW. ICAS provides an opportunity for students in Year 3 – 12 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing competition in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Computing Skills and Spelling. All students receive a certificate and an individual student report analysing their strengths and weaknesses. Closing date for entry will be 10th April, just before the end of Term 1. Please return the slip at the end of newsletter with money to your child’s class teacher.

Assistant Principal’s Report
Zone Swimming
Congratulations to all our amazing zone competitors who truly did Melrose Park proud at the zone swimming carnival on Thursday and Friday. The students’ participation and positive attitude was outstanding and resulted in our wonderful school winning the Sportsmanship Trophy. Thank you to our parents who supported and encouraged all our participants. A special thank you must go to Marg Kelly and Reg Moffitt who managed our teams, Mikey Larkins for supporting the managers and Daphne O’Brien for taking special care of the swimming caps. Well done Melrose Park!

Harmony Day
Harmony Day will be celebrated on Thursday 21st March and is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. This week, students will be creating posters promoting the theme of harmony and will be displayed in the hall for you to view next Thursday. Book Prizes will be awarded to two students in each class.

Tech Talk
Mathletics on Ipad.
Did you know that there is Mathletics for Ipad? Simply download the app and students can complete their tasks using their school username and password.

School A-Z Website
The School A-Z website is a great resource for parents. There are plenty of tips, tools and information to assist you in supporting your child at school.


Jen Riley
Assistant Principal

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1, Week 7</th>
<th>Term 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12/3</td>
<td>Monday, 18/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multilit – Information Session – 9am - Library</td>
<td>Swim Scheme Commences 12.30-3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 14/3</td>
<td>Tuesday, 19/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly – 2.05pm – Yr 3 hosting – SRC Induction</td>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 15/3</td>
<td>Wednesday, 20/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sausage Sizzle – 2 x Yr 3 Parents to assist</td>
<td>Mufti Day – Easter Basket Donation Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 21/3</td>
<td>Thursday, 22/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony Day + add a little orange</td>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuckertime – Year 1/2 to host Swim Scheme</td>
<td>No PSSA – Winter sport try-outs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 22/3</td>
<td>Saturday, 23/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
<td>West Ryde Street Fair &amp; Parade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 23/3</td>
<td>Sunday, 24/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Bee</td>
<td><strong>Term 1, Week 9</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1, Week 11</strong></td>
<td>Monday, 25/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 25/3</td>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 26/3</td>
<td>Wednesday, 27/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 28/3</td>
<td>Thursday, 28/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
<td>Swim Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 29/3</td>
<td>Friday, 29/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1, Week 10</strong></td>
<td>Monday, 1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 1/4</td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 2/4</td>
<td>Return to school</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Principal’s Award for Book Work
The following children will be receiving a Principal Award at this week’s assembly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KE</td>
<td>Samuel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Zaid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Jack Mc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Lara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Mark</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scripture at Melrose Park
We are fortunate to have dedicated Scripture Teachers who come from various local churches and volunteer their time at Melrose Park P.S. Scripture is presented to students on Tuesday each week for 30 minutes (12.10-12.40pm).

At our school we provide Catholic scripture groups for Years 1-6 and non-denominational groups for Years 1-6. This group caters for those students with an interest in Anglican, Uniting and Baptist teachings. There is also available a non-scripture group for students who are affiliated with other religious groups or whose family choose not to participate in scripture sessions. During this time no formal tasks are set; it is simply quiet reading or writing time.

Kindergarten students who wish to participate in a scripture group all attend a general scripture class together as a single cohort. This enables the new Kindergarten students to become familiar with the routine, teachers and expectations in scripture.

If your child is not participating in scripture and would like to do so, please send a written note to Mrs Piper indicating the group of interest.

J Piper
Coordinator

Aboriginal Visitor
Year 4, 5 and 6 had a wonderful experience meeting Frances Bodkin her at school Frances is an aboriginal elder with a masters in Environmental Science. Frances spoke to students about Australian seasons and how the natural world determines life.

Here is a review by Casey:

**An Aboriginal Experience**
I was interested to learn more about the environment, but to learn it from an Aboriginal’s perspective would be even better. It turns out that they know much more than we do and Fran was a great person to learn from. She talked about the 6 seasons in the Southern hemisphere aren’t supposed to be the 6 from the North. Also all the gods or creators are really one person, just with different appearances accordingly tour perspectives. I look forward to learning more about the Aboriginal Society and their perspective.

P&C Report

**Easter Raffle and Mufti Day**
Each year we run an Easter Raffle, as part of this the P&C runs a mufti day. This will be on Wednesday 20th March 2013. The penalty for wearing mufti is to bring in an item for the Easter Hamper such as a chocolate egg, bunny, packet of little eggs etc.

First prize in the raffle is a Family Pass to the Easter Show; subsequent prizes will be the hampers. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 28th March. All tickets will need to be returned by Tuesday 26th March. You will find your tickets attached to today’s newsletter. Please ensure you write your name on each ticket (as some ticket numbers will duplicate).

Also please return any unused tickets to us.

If you have any baskets or coloured paper (for shredding) that you are able to donate for the hamper making, please leave in the office by Friday 22nd March.

**Helpers Needed**
I will need people to help me on Friday 22nd March in the Canteen from 9am to put the hampers together for the raffle.

**Sausage Sizzle**
The next sausage sizzle for this term is on this FRIDAY 15th March 2013 and Class 3 will be host. Please ensure ALL orders are in by WEDNESDAY.
If you are able to help on this day, please see Nina Mather or leave a message for her in the office.

**Dates to Remember for Term 1:**
**Mufti Day** – Easter Hamper Donation Wednesday 20th March
Term 1, Week 7

12 March, 2013

At Melrose Park Public School we are Respectful Responsible Learners

**Hamper Basket Making** – Helpers Wanted Friday 22nd March

**School Working Bee** – Sunday 24th March

**Next P&C Meeting** – Monday 25th March (all welcome)

**Easter Raffle Tickets** – Due back by Tuesday 26th March

**Easter Raffle Draw** – Thursday 28th March

If you would like to contact me, my details are:
Call / SMS – 0414 540 430
Email – melroseparkpc@hotmail.com

Deborah Riley
President

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**WEST RYDE STREET FAIR**

Saturday, 23rd March

☐ My child/ren is/are available and willing to participate in the West Ryde St Fair on Saturday 23rd March.

☐ My child/ren will not be available on Saturday 23rd March

☐ My child/ren is/are interested but cannot make a firm commitment at this stage

Name/s : __________________________________________ Class/es __________

Parent’s Name: __________________________

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**SAUSAGE SIZZLE DAY – ORDER FORM for FRIDAY, 15th March, 2013**

Form must be returned with the money by **WEDNESDAY, 13th March, 2013**. Please put order form and money in a sealed envelope.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Full Roll</th>
<th>Beef $3.00</th>
<th>Chicken $3.00</th>
<th>Ice Block 50c</th>
<th>Lemonade Ice Block 50c</th>
<th>Amount $</th>
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</table>

Total Amount Enclosed: $ ______________
WE KNOW, HEAD LICE ARE A PAIN.

Anyone can get them. We ask everyone to take responsibility to eradicate this problem. It is not fair when some people do the right thing and then keep getting re-infested by those who don’t.

At a glance:

- Head lice and nits only live on human heads.
- They don't care if the hair is long or short, clean or dirty.
- Head lice are an unavoidable fact of life for all school-aged kids.
- The best and cheapest way to remove them is with inexpensive conditioner and a nit comb.
- You will need to re-treat your child several times before all the eggs will be gone.

Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. You'll find these little critters at every school across Australia - and probably the world - at some point during the year.

While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits.

Nitbusters' myth busters

- Kids with head lice don't always scratch. The only way to rule out infestation is to look carefully through your child’s hair.
- Head lice are only found on the human head.
- Head lice and nits live in long, short, curly, straight, clean or dirty hair.
- They are not found on family pets.
- Shaving your child’s head is radical and unnecessary!
- Head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding, carpet or anywhere else in the environment.
- Head lice don't leap or jump. They crawl from hair to hair, from one head to another.
- Treating anything other than the human head does not get rid of head lice.
- There is no way to prevent your child from getting head lice.
- You may be able to help reduce transmission by tying girls' hair back and braiding it.
- Never use insecticides, methylated spirits or kerosene on your child's head.
- Some essential oils, including tea tree oil, can trigger a reaction in some people. Tea tree oil is a proven antiseptic, but its effectiveness as a head lice treatment has not been demonstrated.
- You don't need to use an expensive commercial product.
- If you do decide to use a commercial treatment on your child's head, read the instructions very carefully.

Removing head lice and nits

You'll need:

- a bottle of cheap hair conditioner
- a towel
- a thick tooth comb
- a fine tooth comb
- a roll of paper towels.
Steps:

1. **Sit your child on a chair or stool** in front of you. Wrap a towel around their shoulders to catch conditioner spill. (You may want to put a video or TV show on, as this process can take a while.)
2. **Apply a cheap, pale coloured conditioner** generously to your child's hair. Work it through to coat every strand of hair. For long hair, it may be easier to tie one side of the hair off, and work in sections.
3. Head lice breathe through small openings along their abdomens. By coating the hair and therefore the louse in something thick and slimy, these openings close over, shutting down the louse's breathing for about 20 minutes â€“ long enough for them to stay still and be combed out.
4. After you've applied the conditioner, **use a large comb to part small sections of the hair**, starting from the nape and working upwards toward the crown.
5. When the hair is detangled and manageable, **use a fine lice comb and run through each section several times**. Eggs are often found behind the ears and toward the back of the head. By combing from the bottom of the back of the head up, towards the top and front of the head, you're more likely to find the head lice.
6. After each comb out, **wipe the conditioner on the paper towel**. If your child has head lice, you will see them on the towel (they're a little like small, brown, chia or sesame seeds.)
7. **Keep combing each section** of hair until no further lice or eggs appear on the paper towel. Often you will see lots of old egg casings that may take a while to remove.
8. Once you have combed and re-combed each section of hair, either re-plait or tie it back if it's long enough.
9. Head lice often congregate on the crown of the head, so it's not until you reach these last sections of hair that you'll find adult lice. However, heads that are severely infected will have adult lice everywhere.
10. **Repeat at least twice over the next few days**, until you can't find any more in the conditioner. You'll never be able to get all the head lice and eggs out the first time. However, in the days after your first treatment, the eggs will hatch and you'll be able to catch the crawling nymphs (young lice).

The information from this article comes from the [NSW Health Department’s Nitbuster Program](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/healthtopics/conditions/diseases/headlice/nitbuster.html).

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ICAS Competitions – Open to students in Years 3 to 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
<th>Entering</th>
<th>Money Encl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Skills</td>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Wed. 10th April</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Wed. 10th April</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>$12.10</td>
<td>Wed. 10th April</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Wed. 10th April</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td>13 August</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>Wed. 10th April</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ENCL.**

You can go online and prepare for ICAS at [www.ess.unsw.edu.au](http://www.ess.unsw.edu.au)