Dear Parents and Community Members,

Open Night
As part of our Reporting to Parents Policy, Mount Pleasant Primary School will be holding an Open Night on Wednesday August 20. Classrooms will be open between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. This is an opportunity for parents to peruse their children’s work, monitor their progress and view the classroom displays. This is not the time to obtain individual student progress reports from teachers. Please make an appointment should you wish to discuss your child’s progress in a more in-depth matter. Westbooks which supplies many of our library books will be in attendance on this night. Parents will be able to purchase a book and donate it back to the library. The family will be recognised on the inside cover of the book that they donate.

Children’s Book Week
Children’s Book Week will be celebrated from August 16 to August 22. The theme is, ‘Connect to Reading’. The students will be involved in several Literacy activities during this week. I will provide further information in the next newsletter.

Nola Powell Tribute
Last week our School Community lost a valued member. Nola Powell passed away after battling a heart condition. Nola was an industrious, caring and generous volunteer at Mount Pleasant Primary School for more than 25 years. In 2009 Nola was the recipient of “The Community Patron’s Award” for her outstanding contribution to our Values Program. Nola had a way of making everyone feel special and she was always supportive of the students at the school. She will be deeply missed and our heartfelt sympathy is extended to her family and her close network of friends.

National Tree Day - Friday 25 August
Last Friday the P&C Grounds Committee arranged a schedule of activities for the day including planting three large trees in planters on our school quadrangle near the library and smaller plants along our entry-way, the unfurling of a new school mural, nature play, plant identification activities and a visit and talk from arborist Rob Bodenstaff.

The P&C Grounds Committee is currently developing a long term vision for the school grounds, in consultation with the community of parents, students and staff. They are seeking to integrate nature play, arts and creativity into the school grounds in response to recent research demonstrating a strong link between school environment and improved mental health and learning experiences for students.

The day was an enormous success. The Junior students were involved in various hands on activities to celebrate National Tree Day. The mature trees planted near the library and the mural look amazing. I would like to thank all parents, students and staff members who contributed to the success of the day. Special thanks to Zoe Zmitkova, Robina Chidlow, Emily Parsons, Blair Parson and Carol Rackham for coordinating the main events.

Check out the National Tree Day photos on the back page.
At times I am asked “What does a School Chaplain do?”...so I thought I would run through some of the activities I got up to in Term 2:

As Chaplain my primary role is providing pastoral care within the school community. This can be via one-to-one conversations or in group situations. Chaplaincy provides a safe place for people to chat about "life", whether it be something they are feeling concerned about, or sharing a point of celebration. I am currently running the Seasons For Growth (SFG) education program with a group of students. SFG is run over 9 weeks and enables children to explore the impact of change and loss on their lives. They learn that they are not alone in dealing with the effects of grief, and are encouraged to build their communication, decision making and problem solving skills within a supportive peer group.

Early in term 2 I had the pleasure of attending the year 6/7 camp in Bridgetown. What a privilege it was to spend the week with such a wonderful group of staff and students. We were kept busy with many fun activities like kayaking, damper making, horse riding and juggling. Another role I enjoy is helping at school sports events, and last term I assisted with the Interschool Netball teams. When the opportunity arises I value helping out in the classrooms - I find it a great way to continue building my relationship with the students and staff. During lunchtimes I like to walk around and chat with students, keeping an eye out for any students sitting on their own.

At Mount Pleasant Primary School we have a mentoring program, whereby volunteers from the wider community spend approximately 40 minutes each week with individual students. The one-to-one nature of mentoring has a beneficial effect on students’ academic and personal growth. As co-ordinator of the program, I hosted a lunch for the Mentors in week 6 to thank them for so generously giving of their time.

Finally, our school 5 cents fundraiser continues this term. Thankyou for the amazing response we had in term 1 & 2, raising a total of $809.95 to buy gifts from the TEAR catalogue that support education projects in financially poor communities. Not only are we helping to create doors of opportunity for others, but we are also fostering in our own children the importance of being community minded, caring for those in need, and helping them to appreciate the value and privilege of education in their own lives. So far the funds have been allocated to: developing a community school, x2 gifts of primary education for individual children and x9 gifts of school supplies. More information of what has been purchased can be found on the pinup board near Room 1.

I count it a privilege to pastorally care for the students, staff and families at our school. Of course seeing a Chaplain is voluntary, and if you would rather your child does not catch up with me during the year, please let the front office or myself know. We all face challenging times in our lives, and having a ‘safe place’ to share and work through our feelings can help a lot, so if I can be of help please let me know. A message can be left with the front office or feel free to phone or come and see me at school (I’m there on Thursdays and Fridays).

Wishing everyone a wonderful term 3.

Wendy Anderson
NEW SCHOOL NURSE

Hi, I am Belinda Laing-Hughes, and I am the new nurse at Mount Pleasant Primary School. I work off site, but regularly visit this school to see children for various reasons.

My main role, and where most children see me, is when I screen the kindergarten and any new students for vision, hearing, and developmental issues that interfere with them learning and growing into happy, healthy, and active primary school kids. I also follow up on any health concerns raised to me by a teacher or parent about older children. Where there are specific issues identified, I can provide avenues for further investigation or treatment by the relevant health specialist. Parents are welcome to contact me directly through the School Health office or through your child’s teacher.

I look forward to seeing students at the school and being involved in this school community. I am also keen to promote healthy development and wellbeing so students may reach their full potential. Currently, healthy eating and increasing activity has been identified as a community health priority and I hope to work with the school to encourage this discussion in school lessons and at home.

For any queries, please contact me on 9339 1362, or leave a message with the school office.

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to all the year 4-7 students who participated in last Friday’s event. The winning house was Sapphire with Ruby second and Emerald third. The first three place getters from each year level were:

Year 4 Boys
Jackson Spencer-James  1st
Conor Hemsley        2nd
Riley Currie         3rd

Year 4 Girls
Amy Ellul                1st
Charlotte Gibbons      2nd
Amelie Bolton          3rd

Year 5 Boys
Harrison Edgar        1st
Joel Miller           2nd
Alek Narozy           3rd

Year 5 Girls
Charlotte George      1st
Alison Cameron        2nd
Jasmine Thompson     3rd

Year 6 Boys
Luke Egger            1st
Lochlan Irwin         2nd
Carson Wolff          3rd

Year 6 Girls
Maureen Rogerson      1st
Holly Lieschke        2nd
Jessica Ellul          3rd

Year 7 Boys
Max Uchino           1st
Connor Addison       2nd
Shaun O’Dowd          3rd

Year 7 Girls
Jessica Cameron      1st
Jade Bergermaschi    2nd
Jamie Edwards        3rd

The Inter-school Carnival is next Tuesday at Brentwood Primary School and Blue Gum Lake. Best wishes to our team.

Thanks to the parents who assisted us last Friday. Your help is always greatly appreciated.

ROAD WISE

Crossing at a marked pedestrian crossing
Pedestrian Crossings are designated by road markings (either painted white lines or concrete centre islands) that warn motorists that a crossing is ahead, to take care and give way to pedestrians. To use a crossing safely you must;
- Walk up to the crossing
- Stop
- Look
- Listen
- Think
- Keep looking and listening whilst crossing
- Do not run, ride or skate across
Parents, please support the canteen by volunteering to help. If you’ve never help out before, now is the time! Even if you have only an hour to spare, I can still use your help. Grandparents and other family members can help too! There is a roster outside the canteen or I can be contacted on 0430 141 282 or beanerjag@hotmail.com.

Fri 1 Aug  Wendi Allison  AM
           Suzanne Cameron  PM

Mon 4 Aug  Renee Riches  AM
           HELP PLEASE  PM

Fri 8 Aug  HELP PLEASE  X2  AM
           HELP PLEASE  X2  AM

Mon 11 Aug  Marg Prestage

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**NATIONAL TREE DAY**