

NEWSLETTER



Nha Marni, Dear All

As we reach the point of assessments being due, particularly in the Middle and Senior School, it's impossible to ignore the growing presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in our daily lives, including in our classrooms. I recently came across a quote that resonated deeply: "Technology is a useful servant but a terrible master." It captures a simple yet profound truth—AI, like any tool, has the potential to greatly enhance our work, but it must be used thoughtfully and responsibly. I remember not too long ago – perhaps when some of you were at school, when Wikipedia was launched. Suddenly students who struggled to write a few sentences produced meaningful comprehensive assignments, cutting and pasting from the internet. Teachers tackled this in a few ways, some tried to spot the plagiarised work and invested in software that detected copied work. Others adapted their tasks asking specific questions that couldn't simply be pasted from internet. Students who used the sources available on the internet to guide their thinking benefitted the most. Now we are in an age where AI can convincingly answer questions and write original assignments, we need to adapt again. Luckily at MDS we know our kids' abilities very well and we can call it when AI has simply been used to do their work. We also accept that the world is changing, and our improvement journey takes account of the changing world. The concern we keep hearing about in the media is AI will take over a great number of jobs. It is true the next technological revolution is upon us, and we need to adapt rather than push back (or put our heads in the sand). We started in 2023 looking at the human skills that AI doesn't have. By developing Connection and Belonging at MDS we are developing students' ability to be effective communicators, team players and form strong relationships. As we look to 2025, we think the next human quality we want to develop is a Zest for Learning that no AI could replicate... having joy, curiosity, creativity and critical thinking skills. We are not 100% sure how we will measure this next step of improvement – how do you measure the smile of a kid in the classroom? Maybe I should ask ChatGPT...

Although I am positive that we can embrace AI to enhance learning experiences and improve teaching I am concerned about yet another increase in screen time for our kids. AI creates content, now even videos, that keep people scrolling. The longer people scroll the more advertising they are exposed to, and longer screen times are directly linked to loneliness, depression and anxieties that are all to prevalent in today's society. Kids need to get outside, put phones down and experience life without technology.

As we navigate this exciting but complex landscape, I challenge each of us—staff, students, and families—to reflect on our use of technology and consider how we can strike a healthy balance. Let's encourage our kids to engage with AI thoughtfully and responsibly while also ensuring they get plenty of time to connect with each other, enjoy the outdoors, and simply be kids. It's this balance that will help us nurture well-rounded, resilient young people who are not just ready for the future but ready to shape it.

(authored without the use of AI)

Best Regards,
Andrew Dickinson
Principal

From the Primary School *Barb Agnew, Primary School Coordinator*

Melaleuca Visits

Throughout this year primary classes have been visiting the residents at Melaleuca. They have sung songs, played games, read stories and listened to life stories of the residents. Both the oldest residents of our community and the younger ones have thoroughly enjoyed the time spent together. The children learn so much through participating in these visits and bring joy to the lives of others. This week the Year 5 students visited the residents and played a variety of card and board games, all the while engaging in conversation.

Performing Arts Night

The primary classes will all be presenting performances at the Performing Arts night on Wednesday the 27th of November. The evening starts at 7:00 pm and should conclude at 8:00 pm. The students have been working hard to prepare for the various dances, songs and plays. The staff really appreciate all the efforts parents have gone to ensure the children have costumes. If you have questions about your child's particular performances, please contact the class teacher. On the following night there will be a Presentation Night where various awards will be presented to students in Yrs 3-12. Invitations for the Presentation Night will be sent out next week.

Transition

All primary students will meet with their new 2025 classes and for the most part, their new teachers in Week 8 of this term. The year 5s will spend time with Mr Talbot and learn about the middle school and the new expectations for them in that environment. The transition time will give R-4 students and their new teachers the opportunity to get to know each other and talk about some expectations for the following year.

Next year we will once again have six primary classes. There will be a Reception class, a R/1 class, a Yr 2 class, a Yr 3 class, a Yr 4 class and a Yr 4/5 class

From Miss G's Year 1 Class

In History, the Year 1 students have been investigating how life today differs from or resembles life in the past. The students had many questions about the past, so we decided to interview our friends at Melaleuca Nursing Home for some answers. Through our conversations, we learned that while technology has changed significantly over time, cricket and football remain just as popular among the residents as they are with the Year 1 students today.

Back at school, the students had fun exploring a variety of 'old' artefacts, such as radios, VHS tapes, telephones, clocks, tape decks, film cameras, MP3 players, and flip phones. We discovered that many of these items have now been replaced by smartphones.

The students also had the opportunity to share items from the past during their morning talks. It was fascinating to hear the stories behind these special treasures, which included WWII medals, dolls, toys, and books, each with its own unique history from different families.



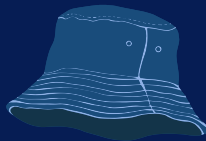
Calendar

T4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 5	11/11	12/11	13/11 - Curramulka PS & Kindy Transition -YP Concert Band @ Edithburgh	14/11 Primary Assembly 2.10pm	15/11 Hot Shots Tennis Year 3-4
Wk 6	18/11	19/11	20/11 Curramulka PS & Kindy Transition	21/11	22/11 Go Blue Day for Diabetes
Wk 7	25/11	26/11	27/11 Kindy Transition Performing Arts Night	28/11 Presentation Night	29/11 Student Free Day
Wk 8	2/12	3/12	4/12	5/12	6/12
Wk 9	9/12	10/12	11/11 Middle School Camp	12/11 Middle School Camp	13/11 Middle School Camp

Canteen opening days Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Calendar correct as at 15/11/24. Check Class Dojo, Daymap & the MDS Facebook page for updates.

hats in term 4



Wide-brimmed MDS hats need to be worn in Terms 4 during recess, lunch & other outdoor activities. MDS hats can be purchased from Zoe in the Book Room for \$15.50 and \$17.50. (There are two different design options).

save the dates



R-5 Primary Performance Night, Wednesday 27th November 7-8pm



Yr 3-12 Presentation Night, Wednesday 27th November 7-8.30pm