

Dates for Your Diary:

Friday	June 19 <sup>th</sup>
Monday	June 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Tuesday	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Friday	June 26 <sup>th</sup>

Reports go home  
P/T Interviews start  
Chocolate drive starts  
Term Ends at 2:30pm

School Council Meetings

OSHC	Monday	TBA	6:30pm
Finance	Monday	July 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm
Buildings and Grounds	Monday	July 20 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm
Education	Tuesday	TBA	3:45pm
PR / Marketing	Tuesday	TBA	3:45pm
Parents Association	Friday	July 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am
<b>School Council</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>June 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30pm</b>

Principal's Report:

What a productive term!

**SCHOOL CONCERT**

**The Spirit Within our Music was there for everyone to experience.**

My first reaction to the school concert was **WOW!!** It was an amazing concert!! We had over 600 people in the Mullum Primary School (and extended community) work for and enjoy this concert. We had singing, dancing, instrumental work, individual items...

**Every child had a chance to shine.**

The students were crackling with energy, excitement and talent. You didn't have to ask them to smile! Their behaviour and commitment to their performances was **outstanding!** They sparkled as they performed their well-rehearsed items. They entered and exited the stage like professionals, and delighted a 500 strong audience with their enthusiastic performances. The students were offered a very wide variety of experiences as Amanda Jeeves combined her creative and organizational talents to explore the potential of the venue. At the end of the concert the theatre buzzed with shared achievement.

These opportunities can only be offered because of the generosity of the staff. It adds substantially to their workload each time we take on a whole school event. Thanks to those teachers who after a day's work spent the night shut in a room with a huge group of highly excited children (without a whip and a chair!) and remained positive and enthusiastic.

We had a wonderful committee supporting Amanda and I want to thank **Viv Cameron, Sue McCausland, Deanne Lawn, Craig Irvine, Stuart Beever and Karen Ogilvy. Lyn Hayes**, with the help of **Wendy Orr**, again took on the daunting task of organizing the tickets. A fabulous job - we are very grateful. **Karen Ogilvy** again donated her considerable expertise to run dance groups for the students – the results were very entertaining and we thank her very much.

We even had staff pick up some families that were unable to get there. Mullum is a very lucky community to have such a dedicated staff!

The eagerness and interest of our parents can always be counted on. You brought family and friends and provided a warm, positive, cheering audience for our children. You made them feel so good about themselves and rewarded them for all their hard work. You also came up with some pretty cute costumes!



Of course, these things don't just happen and the creative and organisational drive for this wonderful event came from **Amanda Jeeves**. **Yes –she is extremely talented; yes - she chose her items extremely well; yes - she involved every child in the school -** but you need to add to all of these gifts the willingness to put in the **long hours of plain hard work**. Amanda is always enthusiastic and rehearses the children so well that they enter the stage eager and confident and the show flows smoothly. She gives generously of her time and talents.  
**THANKS MANDIE.**



### **FRONT ENTRANCE**

It's just about finished. The hand rails went in on Monday and all we are waiting for is the sign. The whole thing looks wonderful and I thank Don Carmichael for such a sensational job as project manager.

### **PRINCIPAL LONG SERVICE LEAVE**

I will be taking Long Service Leave for Term 3. Jenny Verheijden will be Acting-Principal. Louise Brewer will be taking Level 4V. I know you will support Jenny as you have always supported me.

### **REPORTS and INTERVIEWS**

On June 19<sup>th</sup> **reports** will go home. Remember when you are looking at reports that your child is an individual and will be growing and progressing at his/her own rate. Just as all children physically grow in spits and spurts so does their learning. They may have a huge leap at one stage and then plateau followed by a smaller growth. Don't get caught up in worrying about the dots - read the comments. These will probably give you better perspective. The written report is one of the two types of reporting you will have at the half year.

Complimenting, and perhaps more important than the written reports, are the **interviews**. If you have concerns about your child's progress make notes to take to the interview to discuss with the teacher. This interactive discussion and exchange of information will give you a real understanding of your child's progress.

When the interview request form goes home, please put a range of times. The teachers strive to accommodate their parents but there is only one of them to perhaps 25 families, so not everyone can have the exact time they would like.

*Lynne Holland - Principal*



## The Maroondah Regeneration Project

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you about The Maroondah Regeneration Project, a proposal for the redevelopment of government secondary schools in the Maroondah Local Government Area.

Parents of students at Croydon, Heathmont, Maroondah, Norwood, Parkwood and Ringwood Secondary Colleges and Croydon Community School have been given details of the Maroondah Regeneration Project in forums held at the Karralyka Centre in the first two weeks of June.

At each forum, the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Director, Dr Jim Watterston, the Regional Network Leader, Mr Geoff Flett, and principals of the seven secondary schools described the context for the Maroondah Regeneration Project, initial details and the steps to be taken in the next months.

### **The context**

The context for the Maroondah Regeneration Project is as follows:

- The seven schools have been working cooperatively for a number of years and the State Budget announcement of planning support for the regeneration project provides a once in a lifetime opportunity to provide better options for secondary school students in our schools into the future.
- The percentage of school aged children in the city of Maroondah as a proportion of the total population is declining and will continue to decline over the next twenty years. This was confirmed in two reports

commissioned over the past five years by the local school network. These reports were provided by Dr Joanna Wynn of Melbourne University and Mr Greg Gibbs, an educational consultant.

- The State Government has in place the Building Futures Policy. The policy anticipates support for building projects being conditional on schools meeting a number of criteria, including being able to demonstrate how outcomes for students will be profoundly enhanced by particular proposals. In circumstances like ours, the Building Futures Policy encourages schools to cooperate in preparing submissions.
- Each school believes that it could offer better targeted and more effective programs if the various schools cooperated in new ways.

### **Detail**

In the recent budget the State Government supported further planning for the refurbishment and rebuilding of the seven schools on five sites, with an allocation of \$1 million.

Over 100 parents from the seven schools attended the three forums, mentioned at the beginning of this letter, each night. Audience members had the opportunity to raise questions and provide input into our thinking.

At each meeting, Dr Watterston expanded on the information provided to date. Five sites would be comprised of four mainstream schools, in the North, East, South and West of the City of Maroondah, complemented by an alternative setting Croydon Community School.

He described specialist advice from an expert firm of architects, Architects, which have recommended how we could best achieve this objective:

- In the north, bring together Parkwood and Norwood Secondary Colleges on the

Parkwood site in a refurbished and rebuilt school and new entity, MEC Norwood

- In the east, bring together Maroondah and Croydon Secondary Colleges on the Maroondah site in a rebuilt school and new entity, MEC Croydon.
- In the south and west, substantially redevelop Heathmont and Ringwood Secondary Colleges, MEC Heathmont and MEC Ringwood
- Redevelop Croydon Community School.

The Building Futures submission, if fully funded, anticipates an overall approximate cost of \$75 million dollars.

The project is intended to create a new way of thinking about secondary education in our area where schools share their resources to provide programs and opportunities that are far beyond the capabilities of any school acting on its own.

Dr Watterston emphasised that this proposal would only be able to proceed with community support.

### **Meeting with Primary School Parents**

Early in Term 3, we will again conduct a public forum, this time for interested parents of primary school children in our area. It will be advertised through the primary school network

This is an exciting time for all of the families who have, or will have, children attending state secondary schools in Maroondah.

We believe that this proposal represents a once in a life time opportunity to reshape and rebuild state secondary education in Maroondah so that it best meets the needs of our young people well into the future and provide them with best possible education.

Yours sincerely,

**Principals of Maroondah Education  
Coalition Schools**