Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to Week 4 of Term 1. This week we were very excited to welcome Naomi Stuckey from the Montessori Institute back to Margaret River and to our school to make a presentation to our parents and the wider community called “Inside a Child’s Mind.” Presenting on Wednesday evening 7-9pm and this morning 9-11am, Naomi’s visit has been a wonderful opportunity for our parents and staff to gain further insight into understanding child development and to invite members of the community and potential prospective families into our school.

THANK YOU !!! to all those who have contributed time, skills, plants, flowers and food to making the Naomi Stuckey event such a success. I do not have enough space to name names but the spirit of collaboration is amazing!

Sundowner – We had a lovely, casual and friendly Sundowner last Friday afternoon. It was great to relax on the grassy hillside with all of you who were able to come for a while.

Parking Reminder – Please be reminded not to park ANY WHERE in front of the double gate at MP that is marked NO STANDING any time. It must be kept clear at all times for emergency vehicles. We must also remind parents that the temporary staff car park behind 0-3 is NOT A DROP OFF or PICK UP area. Please use the main car park or the parallel parking on Clarke Road. Also please do not use the bus stop area for drop off or pick up.

Early Childhood National Quality Standard – Jan and I attended a very informative 2 day seminar and workshop last week in Busselton. All schools and centres now come under the National Quality Framework and the new standards (the National Quality Standard) for early childhood. All school leaders and early childhood coordinators are required to undergo training in order to deliver and assess the School’s level of compliance with the Standard which is the training which Jan and I have undergone. This is an important process and will only contribute to the high quality of the early childhood and junior primary programmes that are available at MRMS.

Trees – Unfortunately a number of Marri trees on the verge side of the existing main car park have been identified as suffering from or being susceptible to canker. Canker results in the deterioration and eventual death of the tree it affects and lives in the soil to affect more trees over time. This week John McKinney from the Shire visited us and worked with the UP students who hold the position of School Environment Ministers, to identify which of our trees have been affected. It was important for the students to understand how affected trees could potentially pose a dangerous risk to the safety of students, families and other community members parking and walking in our school grounds. In light of the tragic death from a fallen tree limb of a young girl this week and our legal obligation to provide safe entry and exit to our school, it is important that the issue of unsafe trees is addressed. This has also been taken into consideration when deciding the location of the new car park bays and where revegetation will occur. Most of the affected trees are now marked with pink ribbon and green will be used to mark the trees that will be kept in the upgrade and these trees will also be marked on the plans you will see around the school. Please refer to the attached PDF for more info.

Hats – Please be reminded that all children must have a hat at school for outdoor play times. This includes After School Sport. Please join us in reminding students about the “no hat no play” policy and in explaining to the children that there is to be no sharing or lending of hats. We have found that some children are relying on spare hats or on borrowing from friends. Sharing and lending of hats is discouraged and there are no spare hats available. While the JP classes have baskets for their hats we are encouraging the older students to look after their own hats. If hats are simply left on hooks they are prone to falling off and being picked up by others so we are encouraging all students to keep their hats in their bags when not in use. We also ask that all hats are clearly labelled so that students can identify their own hats.

Kind regards, Lisa Fenton
JP1, Casa dei Fiori

The first few weeks of the new year have flown by and we have all settled back in to our classroom routines. We would like to welcome our newest 3 year olds and their families to our classroom, Kayla Noakes and Darcy Craigie. As always, the oldest children in our room have enjoyed ‘showing them the ropes’ as their buddies and have given them the freedom to choose their own work now they are familiar with the materials and how to use and return them to the shelf. As Maria Montessori so wisely said, “The child’s conquest of independence are the basic steps in what is called his ‘natural development.’” Children naturally enjoy being able to do things for themselves at a young age and therefore it is to be encouraged to offer them every opportunity to do so. Show them the ‘steps’ involved and sit back and observe. This is often a slow, but rewarding process. Enjoy the journey.

Jan, Corinna, Trish (EA on Fridays) and Sue (every 2nd Friday)

MP1, Casa del Mare

Hello everyone. Wow, with week four almost complete we are nearly half way through our first term!

It has been great to have Eva, Henry, Elizabeth, Okie, Fletcher and Lyndi join us full time in Casa del Mare. They have been taking part in the sharing of the great lessons and making many discoveries about their world and how it may have come to be. The Great Lessons are designed to create wonder and excitement and act as a springboard into learning across all areas of the curriculum. We have been lucky to have had two visits from the Cape to Cape Catchments group this term. On their first visit Tracy spoke with the older children about our local water catchment and how we can care for it. The children got to add different pollutants to the river model to see firsthand where these pollutants end up and the damage they can cause to our water ways, and the flora and fauna that need this water for survival. The children had some great ideas to offer on how to care for our waterways and to use water sustainably when at school and at home.

On the second visit everyone took part in a presentation, by local indigenous facilitator Zac Webb, on how the Wardandi people have utilised the natural environment and its water systems over hundreds of years. Zac demonstrated how structures such as fish traps and shelters were made from natural products, such as tree branches, and rocks. We are looking forward to Zac and Tracy visiting us again later in the term.

Kate, Jasmine, and Janine.

JP2, Casa del Cielo

The students and teachers in JP2 have settled well into the new school year. The classroom has been a hive of activity and the students have really enjoyed reconnecting with their friends and their classroom environment.

We would like to welcome our new students and their families to our school: Gabriella Hillman, Cruz Ross and Jesse Lee. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and they have already made many new friends.

The lovely Ann Noakes is the JP2 mentor for this semester. We are still looking for a Nit person, please see us if you are interested in this parent commitment position.

Regards, Sonja, Sue, Denise and Sue G

JP3, Casa del Sole

Hello, what a great start we have had to our new school year!

We would like to welcome our new students and their families; Nevaeh Ross, Emil Eckert and Ben Szandtner. We look forward to working with you to assist your child in reaching their full potential. Also a big thankyou to Charity Coffman for being our class mentor for Semester One.

It has been great having parents in our classroom helping the children cutting the fruit for morning tea. This can now be done when you drop your child off.

If you can assist (30 minutes max), please place your name on the roster at the classroom door.

Please remember, your child needs 1 large piece of fruit or 2 smaller pieces for morning tea.

Last week we enjoyed a visit from Maria Hillman, who bought in a hen and two types of eggs - chicken and guinea fowl eggs for us to see. Thanks Maria for visiting us.

We have also had our first observer, which the children enjoyed having another adult in the room taking great interest in their work. Remember if you would like to book your observation, see Deb in the office.

Looking forward to working with you for the term ahead.

Regards, Raylene, Sue and Gayna

MP2, Casa della Stella

Hello everyone! We have been very busy in Casa Stella since returning from Summer break and have many new smiling faces to welcome to our happy little community of learners! So a big hearty welcome to Daisy and her parents Denise and James, Oscar Male and his parents, Sarah and Andrew, Nellie Lee and her parents Clare and Mark, as well as Alexis Quinan and her parents, Tini and Anthony. We also welcome Ruby Berry, and her parents, Genene and Phil to the Primary Wing. We welcome Edie Liddon, and her parents, Sammy as well as Tilly, our wonderful permanent EA!

We have been very busy diving into the Great Stories and have key lessons that accompany them. So far we explored The Formation of the Universe, and the key lessons of The Long Black Strip and the Clock of Eras. Today we attended to The Coming of Life. It is always a pleasure to see what effect these stories can have, and even better when the older children come to listen and participate with the younger ones, whom may be hearing them for the very first time. I know we all get something different from each time, and sometimes that special thing we get, bubbles up to the surface, many months later. Its BIG work, and the stuff of truly inspiring the imagination and springboard learning across all curriculum areas. We have had Tracy Muir from Cape to Cape Catchments in to talk to the older children about water sustainability. Today we were fortunate to have Zac Webb come and show us how the Wardandi people of this area lives sustainably. We were very interested in his fish traps and he promises to return next term to help us build a miamia. Thank you for a wonderful start to the year!

Keep smiling, Lee-Anne and Tilly

UP Casa della Luna

This term the wonderful Upper Primary students have enthusiastically started a variety of amazing and fun activities such as: Speaking Session, Utopia Government, Race Around The World, Getting to Know You activities and choir.

This year we are continuing Speaking Session which is where students practise public speaking through various text types. So far students have chosen to give instructions on how to do sgraffito (scratch art), an advertisement for bouncy balls and one for caveman clothing, a science report on earthquakes and tsunamis, poetry reading and story reading, and a report on the history of the telephone. The first Speaking Session has gone well and we look forward to more fabulous presentations.

We have had our first Utopia elections with three people in each ministerial position. Some of the ministers have already started planning excursions and excursions. Race Around the World has begun with the transitioning students making their passports and Avatars. As for the other students, they are continuing their studies of Antarctica.

We began the year by doing Social Education activities designed to help us get to know each other better.

Choir has started and we have incorporated some middle primary students to help increase the numbers. We have chosen new songs to perform this year along with our old favourites. Choir is an exhilarating activity that takes place on a Wednesday lunch time.

If you have any questions, comments or observations you would like to share we can be contacted through our class email. utopia@margmont.wa.edu.au
Update: School News, P&F and Council News

Carpark Plans – Up for Comment
This week the School Council has been meeting about the latest round of plans for the car park upgrade, the new JP entrance and the upgrade to the current temporary car park behind 0–3. These plans will be posted around the school for consultation once they have been finalised in the next week or so. Please come in to have a look and leave comments or queries.

After School Sport
Welcome and thank you to Denise House who is coordinating After School Sport this term. Ultimate Frisbee has been a huge hit and we have one more session to go. Starting on 11th March for 4 sessions we will be doing Hockey with Natasha from Margaret River Hockey Club. Reminder to parents that your child must have a 2014 Hockey permission slip signed to participate.

Montessori Community Trades & Services
If you would like to advertise your business in our Parent Contact Book, please forward your logo in jpeg format along with your business details asap.

Class Mentors Semester One 2014
JP1: Maria Hillman - hillmanbears@bigpond.com
JP2: Ann Noakes - haytrans@westnet.com.au
JP3: Charity Coffman - charltycoffman@gmail.com
MP1: Tilly Kelleher - tilly.k@mac.com
MP2: Renee Keesing - ren-163@hotmail.com
UP: Rachel Taylor - woodvibes@westnet.com.au

Fashion Folly / Frolic / Swap
The Fashion Folly / Frolic / Swap is happening again for 2014 with Linda Henry once again co-ordinating the event. We will hold the event in the School Hall on Friday 28th March from 6pm – 9pm.
As in previous years we would like you to raid your closet and put in 5 clothing items – clothes, jewellery, shoes, belts – that you no longer want in your wardrobe. All items need to be in “good working order”!! It is a FUNdrasing event with a cover charge of $10 per person.
Linda is currently working on the event details so keep an eye out for more information and get into that wardrobe for a clean out!

School Council News
Welcome back for a new school year. The School Council hopes that everyone has been making our new principal Lisa feel welcome as she settles in to her new role.

As previously notified, draft plans for the car park extension, walkways and JP1 entrance have been on display around the school. This project has been on the School Council agenda for nearly a decade and we thank you for your patience with its development. Final plans are now on display on the school’s notice boards – any feedback needs to be expressed by Friday 7th March. Once approved by the Shire, we are hoping to have the work commence in the upcoming school holidays.

The School Council will be holding its AGM at 7pm on 9th April. As we have several School Council members leaving – Liz Johnston (6 years), Melanie Powell (3 years), Caroline Bannister (2 years) and Lauren Beetson (2 years) – it is imperative that we find suitable people to come on board. It is a very rewarding experience to be a part of the decision making process for the school. Council meetings are held once a month. If you know someone who may be willing either within the school or the wider community please discuss nomination with them. Nomination forms and an FAQ sheet will be distributed shortly.

The P&F AGM will be held on the same evening. Nomination forms will be distributed shortly.

If you have any further queries contact Lauren (beetsonclan@bigpond.com)

Canteen News
We are very happy with the Brumby’s lunch orders and hope that you are too. While it is encouraging to see children writing their own names and orders could parents please check as some names have been difficult to read and orders not completed properly. If your child has misplaced their named lunch pouch, please use a zip lock bag or you can purchase the pouches from the local newsagent.

Virtue of the Month
The new Virtue of the Month is Peacefulness.
We are practicing peacefulness when we...

- Use peaceful language even when you are angry; speak softly and gently.
- Avoid harming anyone.
- When you disagree, find a peaceful solution.
- Appreciate differences.
- Give up the love of power for the power of love.

Inside a Child’s Mind
Did you attend the Naomi Stuckey talk? If so please send us some feedback either via email or by using our suggestion box outside the office. Any feedback is of much assistance in being able to provide the information that parents want. Also if you have any further topics that you would like us to present we welcome your ideas. Thank you.

Naomi Stuckey

Like us on Facebook!
Montessori Margaret River Primary School is now on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/margaretrivermontessori

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Margaret River Junior Football Club
REGISTRATION DAY

MRJFC invites all footballers from Pre Primary to Year 8 to register for the upcoming season. Wednesday 5th March 2014, 4pm to 5.30 at the Football Club.

Fees this year are $80 for 1st Child, $70 for 2nd child and $50 for 3rd.

Kidsport applications will be available on the day, please bring your healthcare card and ID. EFTPOS facilities available.

Football Margaret River is seeking junior players to register for the coming Soccer Season.
28th Feb 3.30pm - 5.30pm at Recreation Centre Cafe.
Cost: $125 for ages 6-11 $140 for ages 12-17
Payment (cheque or cash) required at registration.
For queries contact Tristan on 0459 818684 or visit the website http://www.footballmargaretriver.org/

Tennis Coaching Margaret River
Streamline Tennis provides group lessons using Tennis Australia's official development program, MLC Tennis Hot Shots, which is a fun way for kids to learn how to play tennis. Modified equipment makes playing the game easier and gives players the chance to serve, rally and score from the first time they play.
Contact Simon or Emily Cockburn on 0404 806 583 or streamlinetennis@gmail.com for more information

Outloud Dance Academy
Classes catering for ages 3yrs – Adults
Jazz, Hip Hop, Ballet, Acrobatics, Boyzonly Masterclasses and GLEE club
Studio @ 25 Station Road, Margaret River
Lara 0403822634

Host Families Needed In June 2014
EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

In June we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, Japan, the USA & Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are looking for host families across Australia to welcome these students into their home.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. If you would like to provide your students, parents or language teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also view some student profiles on our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family. Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory.

You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au. If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 1300 135 331.

Art of Motion Movement Studio
Come along to a free introduction class Pilates followed by a smoothie and some insights on wholefood nutrition, vitality and how to be able to have it all, even with our busy lives.
Thursday 6th March, 6.45pm @ Art of Motion Studio, 2/30 Fearn Ave.
Mumu 0415 865 254 or Kirsty 0400 577 125 to reserve your spot.