Dear Parents and Community Members,

**INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS (IPS)**

Recently Steve Clee and I attended an IPS briefing. The School Council supports this initiative and feedback from the Mount Pleasant staff indicates that a strong majority are in favour of pursuing IPS status. I would like to gauge the level of support from the general community. To this end I ask you to comment using the return slip provided in this newsletter.

This initiative has been hailed as a very positive one and coincidentally the IPS strategy last night won the Premier’s award.

Applications need to be submitted by December 6, 2013. A development program will occur in 2014 with independent status being approved in 2015.

The following is a summary of my notes:

**Advantages**
- Less bureaucratic interference but central office support continues
- Greater autonomy, schools become more responsive to the community and there will be an increase in local decision making
- As the bureaucratic interference lessens, educators will be able to spend more time on educating. Schools will be able to maximise educational advantages from the available resources

The real power of IPS is that it feeds and promotes an empowerment mindset.

**IPS Development Program**
- Development program begins February 2014 and continues throughout the year
- The development program is task orientated relating back to individual schools. The Principal and one other staff member must attend. The School Council Chair may also be involved:
  - Independent status will begin in 2015
  - IPS schools will operate on a one line budget
  - There will be a $20,000 to $40,000 transition funding
  - There will be $25,000 administration funding as part of the transition

**Staffing**
- IPS schools can select and appoint staff including fixed term positions
- IPS schools can place staff for up to six months pending a formal process
- IPS schools can determine the staffing profile
- The Department of Education will manage deployment of excess staff if need be
- Individual staff are offered an “opt out” if submitted within the first six months. They cannot go to another IPS school.

**Finance**
- Schools will operate on a one line budget making it much easier to move money around from salaries to contingencies etc
- Special needs funding is now allocated as a dollar value included in the one line budget
- Principals to ensure that the total funding meets students’ needs
- IPS schools manage their own relief if they chose
- Faults, we can choose contractors
- Utilities, we retain all savings

In Conclusion
- Local decision making is a big advantage, it is quick and flexible
- A School Board will take over from the School Council
- Strategic planning becomes part of a business plan
- Annual reports are still required. There will be an independent review after three years

While the outcomes of schools are everyone’s business, the means by which these standards are achieved is the professional business of schools. IPS will support this.

**IPS Discussion at Next P&C Meeting**
An IPS discussion has been added to the final P&C meeting agenda. If you would like further information on IPS, please attend the meeting scheduled on Wednesday November 20 commencing at 7.30pm in the staff room.
CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions can be paid through the front office at any time.

P&C Voluntary Contribution
One child $60.00
Two children $80.00
3 or more children $100.00

Voluntary School Contributions
Kindergarten $60.00 per child
Pre-Primary to Year 7 $60.00 per child

Whilst voluntary, our school collects around 80% of both types of contribution. P&C contributions are spent by the P&C funding a range of items requested by the school. School contributions are dispersed across a range of budget areas. The combined funds represent 20% of the overall school budget and when not contributed, can impact on what we can provide.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Parents can now make payments utilising the EFTPOS machine located at the front office.

Mt Pleasant School Fair Report

It gives me great pleasure to report that the 60th Anniversary School Fair was a huge success. Although the final amount raised has not been finalised, I believe our estimation of approximately $15,000 will be achieved. An event such as this doesn’t happen without a huge amount of time, effort and support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in making this day so successful.

Firstly I would like to thank the organising committee: Anne Bulmer, Robyn Ward, Pam Allen, Nicole Rowson and Tinka Truinger. The memorabilia display was organised by Anne Bulmer and Robyn Ward. They did a fantastic job putting together the old photographs and information that we had available. For those who are not aware, there is a fairly large gap around the ’90s where some photographs and information was lost due to a damaged sea container.

I would like to sincerely thank all our sponsors. Our major sponsor was Glen and Stephanie O’Brien from Salt Property who provided support to fund our biggest outlay of the day being the rides.

Sponsors of the event are as follows:

- Salt Property (rides) - O’Brien Family
- Millers Bakery, Regal Bakery & Bovells (rolls, scones & cupcakes) - Dunkley Family
- Caporn Young (signs) - Steve Currie
- 3D Printing Perth (face paints) - Truinger Family
- Mt Pleasant Bowling Club (trestles)
- Boost Juice Mobile
- Azzura Gelati
- Acton Applecross (tents and advertising) - Colleen Gandini
- Bendigo Bank (tent)
- St George Bank (tent)
- Snap Printing Applecross (printing of flyers)
- Waters & Chidlow Families (allowing us to display the signs at their homes)
- Charmed Hair Salon Applecross (crazy hair)
- Bakeplan/Winthrop Scouts (climbing wall) - Rowell Family
- To the Mt Pleasant families who provided tents and trestle tables

Thank you to all our students who participated in the flyer competition. Our winners were Emma Robinson and Harrison Bayliss. Your flyers looked fantastic when printed and distributed amongst the community.

The committee is very grateful for the time and effort that our class representatives and parents contributed to co-ordinating their class stalls. Not only did you have to come up with ideas for your stall, you also had to organise everything prior to the event and on the day. The support received from those families, teachers and students is appreciated.

A special thank you must be conveyed to Mrs Bint who put together a fantastic “Channel 60” event with our students. It was wonderful to see our students performing on the day and entertaining everyone. Thanks also to Pam Allen for organising the past and present students who also performed on the day. We have some amazing talent within our school. Paul Vilkas, who was our MC for the day, once again provided invaluable support and did a fantastic job.
Thank you also to our Principal, Joe Fasolo, teaching staff and students who assisted in setting up and cleaning up at the end of the day.

Mrs McCusker conveyed our school motto in her address to the school of “Working Together”. This was displayed wholeheartedly on the day by our school community. Proceeds from the day will be used to fund resources, equipment and improvements to the school grounds.

We would appreciate any feedback as this will assist us in planning future events.

Helen Suriano and the Organising Committee

Thank you Helen!
It goes without saying that without Helen’s leadership and guidance the success of the Mount Pleasant 60th Anniversary School Fair would not have occurred. On behalf of staff, students and the general community, a huge thank you to Helen Suriano.

Joe Fasolo

**INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Interschool Athletics Carnival last week. Our children represented our school with pride and we should be pleased with their efforts. Special congratulations goes to Zoe (Champion Girl Year 7), Jade (Third Runner Up Champion Girl Year 6), Connor (Runner Up Champion Boy Year 5), Charlotte (Runner Up Champion Girl Year 4) and Jamie (Runner Up Champion Boy Year 4)

**CANTEEN NEWS**

**Roster**
We urgently need volunteers to keep our canteen running. If anyone is free for a few hours this Friday, please let me know.

**Position Vacant**
We are seeking a Canteen Manager for one or two days per week. Experience not required, just a willingness to serve our children. Good organisational skills and a happy disposition is all that is required. The position enables you to become involved in the school community and your child can visit you during breaks.

**HONOUR CERTIFICATES**

Presented Friday 1/11/13

**RED**

**BLUE**

**GREEN**

**SLIP SLOP SLAP**

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. With summer fast approaching it is time to reinforce how important it is to Slip Slop Slap. Always make sure that you wear a hat when going outside and apply sunscreen regularly. It is also important to have a skin cancer check every year.
NOTICES

SCHOOL BANKING

We require another School Banking Coordinator for 2014. If you are able to help each Wednesday morning from 8.15am, please email Jade Mulroney at mulroney@iinet.net.au. No experience or special skills are required.

IT’S TIME TO TRADE IN YOUR DOLLARMITES TOKENS FOR A REWARD.

If you have been saving this year with School Banking and collecting your silver Dollarmites tokens, then now is the time to redeem them for a reward before you miss out. You need to use your tokens before the end of Term 4 as you will not be able to use them next year.

Once you have chosen the reward item(s) you would like to receive, complete the coupon on your rewards card and take it, along with your 10 tokens per reward, to school with your next School Banking deposit.

Importants: Our Dollarmites Moneyboxes will no longer be available from next year. Some rewards are in limited supply and are on a “first stocks last” basis.

Commbank.com.au/adventureisland

There are 60 x Apple iPod touch 16GB and 100 x Kids Adventure DVD packs to be won. Students simply need to make two or more School Banking deposits before November 30 to be automatically entered into the competition.

For more information visit commbank.com.au/adventureisland

IPS FEEDBACK

If you have made a decision and will not be attending the P&C meeting, please complete and return this slip to the front office.

NAME (Optional) ..............................................................

I am/am not in favour of MPPS applying for independent status

Comments: ........................................................................
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