Dear Parents and Community Members,

Welcome back to Term 2. A particular warm welcome to new families commencing this Term.

NAPLAN
A reminder that all students in Year 3 and 5 will be involved in NAPLAN testing. This includes tests in various English and Mathematics components. This year the tests will be held May 12, 13 and 14. Parents will be given a separate report towards the end of the year.

School Board Members
I recently called for nominations to the Mount Pleasant School Board. I have great pleasure in introducing you to the Board members. Congratulations to all the newly elected Board members. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5.

Stacey Waters-Chair
Blair Parsons
Lisa Holland McNair
Gerri Brown
Craig Williams
Elliot Nicholls
Jodie Rowell
Kimberley Larkin
Kathy Williams
Joe Pasolo
Glenda Harne

Thank you to the P&C
The P&C recently approved funding for:
- 12 Laptops (the school to match)
- 3D Printer
- Early Childhood sand equipment and storage containers
- Support for our kitchen garden
- Top up of ‘Letters and Sounds’ program
- Mathematics resources

The grand total donated was $16,450. Thank you to the P&C for their generous support.

Registrar’s Position
Congratulations to Kimberley Larkin who was the successful applicant for a Finance position at Head Office. This is a fixed term position so we may see Kimberley back later in the year. In the meantime, I would like to welcome Tanya Hunter, clerical support officer from Byford Senior College. Tanya will commence on Monday.

Nature Play
Some information regarding the proposed Nature Play area has been included in this newsletter. The P&C have pledged support for this project and a hard working committee led by Robina Chidlow, will guide the project. Thank you also to Emily Parsons for her design work through ‘Studio Earth’.

Busy Bee
The P&C will be coordinating a Busy Bee at Mount Pleasant Primary School. The Busy Bee will involve planting as part of a sensory garden and some general clean up of garden beds. If you can spare anytime at all on Saturday May 2, please meet at the Pre-primary between 8:00am and 11:00am. Please check at the back of this newsletter for more details.

Our First Egg!
As part of our Kitchen Garden program, Miss Brown purchased 4 chicks in February of this year. As you can see in the photo below we have just began to collect our first eggs.

Well done girls!
NATURE PLAY

NATURE PLAY WILL BE BROKEN INTO TWO STAGES - STAGE 1:

as designed and scoped by Studio Earth Landscape Architects

- Stage 1 is focused on getting the more inexpensive and immediate impact items in as soon as possible. Most of the items are balance and curiosity/imaginative play elements
- It has been decided that the existing Adventure Playground equipment will remain for now and the nature play pieces will fit into the available space.
- Stage 1 also proposes keeping the soft fall surface as sand for now.
- Stage 2 completes the vision as outlined in the master plan, and needs to be held off for now because it includes moving the sheds which is costly and logistically difficult.
- Stage 2 includes changing the soft fall surface from sand over to playground mulch.

The pros and cons of each material are listed in this table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Playground mulch (pine chips)</th>
<th>Sand (white, washed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf litter</td>
<td>fallen from Jarrahs blends in = lower maintenance</td>
<td>fallen from Jarrahs needs maintaining by sifting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stability</td>
<td>keeps its place on the angle of repose better</td>
<td>falls down hill and sheds outside perimeter walls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>has higher impact absorption than sand</td>
<td>lower impact absorption, but better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appearance</td>
<td>provides a more bush like aesthetic</td>
<td>looks more like the beach and traditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play</td>
<td>provides a play experience that is more earthy</td>
<td>provides opportunity for play in itself as we know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home time</td>
<td>some small brown particles in shoes at end of day</td>
<td>copious sand particles in shoes at end of day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrast / Tactility</td>
<td>provides contrast material to granitic sand (stage 2)</td>
<td>will look similar to the proposed granitic sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planting</td>
<td>works well with plants within nature play areas</td>
<td>workable but not ideal surface for plant growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Nature play elements are chosen for their irregular characteristics & non prescribed play e.g. organic logs and rocks, which provide unique opportunities for kids to respond to these challenges on their own terms & to their own capabilities.
- All timber used will be seasoned salvaged hardwood like Jarrah and Red Mahogany.
- Rocks are likely to be locally sourced heavy boulders like granite or dolerite.
- Tyres will be large, donated, with no steel rims, and will be filled with sand.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Items in the key with an * need volunteers in T3/T4 to make this happen, these are not artistic works they only require lifting and listening.
- If anyone has access to a crane/franna please email administration as soon as possible and leave your details.
- If anyone has an ability in wood carving please email administration as soon as possible and leave your details.

Ant Tree
FAIRNESS
Practising fairness is being fair in everything you do. It is not judging someone or something by what others tell you.

Fairness means that everyone gets their rightful share. It is not fair to allow someone to take advantage of you. Sometimes to be fair, we need to stand up for our rights or the rights of others. When you practise fairness you treat each person as an individual.

NATURE PLAY

KEY:
1. Large Tree + carvings (includes removal of 1 internal limestone wall*)
2. Smaller Logs + carvings, hopping rocks (under Ant tree, sand needs topping up*)
3. Teepee
4. ‘Double’ Seats
5. Dug Out Canoe (and associated rock scramble*)
6. Fire Pit (note that this will not actually be used for fires, but instead, conversation)
7. Goblin Door (note that the door is going to be non operational because the goblin is a secret creature!)
8. Steppers and Balance Beams
9. Concrete ‘River’ Edging
10. Fossil Rock or Dinosaur Dig

SCHOOL GARDEN

This year, Room 2 has done a fantastic job looking after and maintaining the school garden. Some of the students’ jobs include caring for 4 chickens and 2 ducks, maintaining worm farms, collecting the school’s food scraps for the composting bins, germinating their own seeds, planting seasonal fruits and vegetables, weeding, mulching, and many more exciting things. The students of Room 2 have also been great models whilst showing other classes around the garden.

On the last day of Term 1, Room 2’s parents were invited in to the garden for an afternoon of fun. The students and parents of Room 2 had the opportunity to share their knowledge of gardening with each other and work together to get jobs done. Everyone involved did such a fantastic job and it was great to see parents, grandparents and other family members getting involved in the garden. Thank you to everyone who was involved.