### MISSION

Morang South Primary School is a committed and unified partnership of teachers, parents and children. We value diversity and strive for excellence. We are committed to providing a high quality education in a cooperative, caring and safe environment. Children are encouraged and challenged to reach their full potential.

### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 T-Ball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>6 March</td>
<td>Leaders Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>J.S.C Leadership Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Bupa Aged Care Visit HG 9</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Gr 5/6 Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Assembly Lead By Home Group 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Camp at Lady Northcote YMCA Camp Commences</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>Bupa Aged Care Visit HG 13</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Camp Concludes</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>JSC Wacky Hair Day</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Bupa Aged Care Visit HG 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>Inter-School Chess Tournament Held at M.S.P.S</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>31 March</td>
<td>Assembly Lead by School Leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Student Lead Conferences</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Students only attend with parents at time of Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>Bupa Aged Care Visit HG 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
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<td>Students Dismissed at 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>21 April</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>Staff Professional Learning</td>
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### 6th March 2014

**FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Hello Everyone,

The summer months have gone and even though the weather is still warm, we are now into autumn. Scenes like this are what we have to look forward to! Melbourne is a great place to live and experience variety in our seasons and we have certainly had that this week! As I write this, I am reflecting on the fact that it is the end of week 6! Each year we seem to pack more in and the time seems to speed by!

The 5/6 students, staff and some parents will be attending camp in week 8. This is the first time we have attended the Lady Northcote Camp so we are all looking forward to the new experience. Due to the proximity of this camp Sandi and I will be able to drive up for a visit which will be most enjoyable!

### VISION

Our vision for Morang South Primary is to become a vibrant learning community where all members are challenged and empowered to strive for and celebrate personal excellence and continuous growth. The children will become positive, compassionate, able, creative, confident thinkers, and life-long socially responsible learners equipped to thrive in and shape the future of our evolving global society.
Hopefully you have met your child’s teacher. If not, you will have an opportunity to do so on **Tuesday April 1st**. We are introducing an online booking system – “school interviews” this year. The feedback is already very positive! Last Thursday you will have received the student-led, three-way conference notice and instruction sheet on how to use the system. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you’d like some assistance with this. There is a copy of the instructions included with the Newsletter. Remember “first in best dressed!”

**Emergency** detail forms are currently being sent home. Please check these and return them to school with any corrections so that our records are up to date. It is most important that we are able to reach parents and or carers if there is an Emergency.

Like most schools we have a number of children who have allergies and even more seriously some who have anaphylactic reactions to their allergens. Anaphylaxis can be life threatening. When there is a child who has anaphylactic reactions in your child’s grade we send notice home to the particular grade informing you. Recently the majority of the staff updated their Anaphylaxis training. I would ask you to please be conscious that some children do react to a variety of foods and substances, particularly nuts when sending food, particularly sandwiches and snacks to school.

We do a great deal of work with the children on healthy eating. We ask the children to not eat any “junk” food at first lunch. This enables them to focus on their learning properly during the first four sessions of the day. If they bring healthy snacks most teachers allow them to eat them during their learning time. We would prefer them not to have any “junk” food at all during the day but if you insist on giving it to them, please remind them to only eat it for second lunch.

This approach is clearly based on research and good practice. I know every parent wants only the best for their child and what could be more important than them being able to focus on their learning. I would also like to remind you that we would like every child to have a water bottle available during class time to ensure that they keep well hydrated during the day to enable their brain to function to the best of its ability.

Today our student leaders are attending the Impact Student Leadership Conference held at the Melbourne Convention Centre. It will be an informative, busy and challenging day. I know that each of our leaders will bring back something from the day which they will use at school and in their lives. It is wonderful to see our young people grow as a result of these opportunities. Look out for their report in the next Newsletter.

At the next Assembly on Monday March 17th the final leadership recipients will be presented with their badges.

I wrote about school attendance in the last Newsletter and the new regulations which came into force on March the first. The current initiative is called ‘Every Day Counts’. I have included some more information about it in the Newsletter.

**Remember, every day counts.** If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

We are excited to announce that **Telstra Plenty Valley shop** are working with us to develop an ‘attendance award’ to be announced at the final assembly each term.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

**School Council** will meet Wednesday March 26th at 7.30pm in the staff room. The Annual General Meeting, where we take a look back at the previous year and the Annual Report is presented, will be also on this Wednesday March 26th.

Fortunately we were able to fill both Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) positions.

Congratulations to the following staff who have been elected for a two year term to School Council:
Sandi Young and Connie Constantinou.

There are still **two community positions available** to which **School Council** can co-opt a community member. If you are interested in being co-opted to School Council, please see me as soon as you are able. School Council is our governing body and consequently we need to ensure that we have adequate parent representation. Please consider joining even if you only have a small interest. I would only be too happy to have a detailed discussion about what it involves.

Please remember that the **staff car parks are not available to parents and carers**. This is a **DEECD policy**. Of course it is also a safety issue. **Please do not walk your children through the staff car park.**

There are a number of paths which lead directly to the office.

All schools have an **emergency management plan** which is registered with the DEECD. This details our procedure in case of emergency catering for evacuation from our building, the need to lock down in our buildings and evacuation off site. You will find the Emergency Management Plan on our website next week. We will be having at least two practices this term. Our first practice, evacuation on site occurred Tuesday of this week. It was completed in an efficient and orderly fashion.

As most of you will know, we **email our Newsletter**. If you would like a **hard copy of the Gorge News**, there will be a limited number available in the **foyer for collection** by you or your child.

Please remember that we love to have parents helping in the classrooms and if you have any worries or concerns, please let us know straight away.

You are welcome to see me if you wish to discuss the issues I’ve written about today. I would appreciate feedback as to whether you find the information useful.

I hope you have an opportunity to spend some quality family time during this **Labour Day long weekend**! The history of Labour Day in Australia spans over a century. It is an important annual event that remembers those who struggled and succeeded to ensure decent and fair working conditions in Australia. During the mid to late 1800s the working day was long and arduous, where some employees would work up to 12 hours a day, six days a week. Many Australians saw the need for better working conditions. An agreement with employers for a 48-hour week was eventually reached and Australian workers welcomed the new eight-hour day.

**Keep up that life long learning!**

Julie Jones
Principal
On Thursday 20th of February we visited our buddies in Home Group 4. We found out more information about them and we enjoyed the time we got to read with them and play.

My Buddy likes the colour red.
His favourite football team is North Melbourne.

My Buddy’s favourite book is Princess.

My Buddy likes the colour blue and his favourite football team in Collingwood.

My buddy enjoys reading books and her favourite team is Collingwood.
My buddy enjoys playing on the monkey bars and her favourite colours are pink and green.

My buddy likes the colour blue and enjoys eating hot noodles.

I know my buddy likes to draw pictures. His favourite colour is red.

My buddy loves to play in the sun and enjoys eating strawberries.

My buddy’s favourite colour is pink and she likes to eat fish and chips.

My buddy likes eating meat and his favourite footy team is Tigers. His favourite colour is orange.
Thank you Telstra Plenty Valley Store for continuing to support our school with sponsoring our school for a second year! We will be using this very generous donation to create a Maths & Science Garden in the gravel area where the relocatable classroom was removed in 2012. Last year’s Student Voice team started planning this outside learning space and the 2014 Student Voice team has already started taking the next steps.

It was wonderful meeting Samantha on 5th March from the Telstra Plenty Valley Store team and learning more about a local business who is keen to support our school community. The School Reporters took some time to interview Samantha.

Samantha is a NBN specialist. NBN stands for National Broadband Network. Samantha has been working at Plenty Valley for almost 4 years. If you have driven past our school before, you would have noticed our new sign, demonstrating the partnership between our school and Telstra Plenty Valley Store. Samantha is on that sign, and she is proud to represent Telstra Plenty Valley Store and see herself in newspapers, posters and on other signs. Samantha said that Telstra Plenty Valley Store has a fantastic team who wants every customer to leave feeling as if they have had a great experience.

Telstra Plenty Valley Store have offered our students a cyber-safety workshop and would also like to support MSPS each term with 100% Student Attendance Awards and a monthly School Values Award. More information coming soon...

People should go to Plenty Valley Telstra because they are supporting our school and sponsoring us for a second year. They are a lovely team that focuses on customer experience, and are like a big happy family. Telstra Plenty Valley Store are a part of our community and they would love to meet you!

Written by School Reporters Grace and Kara   Photograph: Ishka and Stephanie
Last year, for the second year in a row, our school community did a sensational job collecting stickers for the Woolworths ‘Earn and Learn’ campaign!!! We earned lots and lots of points. We now have a new supply of learning resources for our students which complements our classroom reading program.

We received all of these wonderful goodies (some are featured below) due to your shopping at Woolworths and the Woolworth’s Earn and Learn program.

Thank you!!

2013 Junior School Council
These students are our 2014 LEADERS. We are very proud!

Our School Captains are Jack and Jessie and our Vice Captains are Jessica and Ty.

These are our new house captains for 2014.

Red House Captains: Christian and Chelsea  
Blue House Captains: Alex and Isabelle  
Yellow House Captains: Josh and Prerna  
Green House Captains: James and Alyssa
Our Spectacular Swimmers

Now that we have our Netbooks... We’d love to share our Photos!

All of grades 3-6 had an extraordinary day at the swimming carnival on Friday the 7th of February!!

Written by School Reporters: Grace and Kara Photographs by: Stephanie and Ishka
On the 3\textsuperscript{rd} of March, Ryan L went to Northcote pool to compete in Freestyle for the Woodlands & Whittlesea Division Swimming Championship. The pool was twenty metres long and Ryan was really nervous but excited to compete. He came 4\textsuperscript{th} PLACE which is a very good effort! Ryan’s mum drove him to Northcote pool and she stayed for the day. Ryan’s race started at about 10:20 am and he left at about 12:00. When it was his friend Ethan’s turn Ryan cheered for him. Altogether Ryan had a pretty terrific day and we are all very proud of him.

Written by School Reporter: Grace W

Photos by School Photographers: Stephanie and Ishka
Highly recommended from previous year’s parents

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday 29th April
7:00 - 8:30pm at MSPS
For more information on Cyber(smart:) safety:

WELL DONE! We now have 150 members who have joined our school Facebook group!

There are 293 families at MSPS… Let’s try to reach 200 members!

We understand that some people have concerns about Facebook or they don’t want to write things on Facebook/Internet or they don’t know how to. You don’t have to write anything to be part of our Facebook group. You can choose to simply read all of the useful and relevant information!

If you are interested in being part of our Facebook group...

Our group is a closed Facebook group. This means you can search for it: ‘Morang South Primary School’ however only members of our group can read or add to the group’s posts. You do not need to add the Administrators as friends to be part of this page.

To find us type: Morang South Primary School into your search bar on Facebook. It is not a page, it is a GROUP with the apple and ruler icon.

Facebook not for you? No problem! Don’t forget our school website!!

AND... as an alternative form of communication, later this year we hope to be releasing a ‘MSPS app’ for your smart phone or portable device. This term we have been trialling different app software but are still looking for an app compatible with our school website and our high expectations.

Sandi Young
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it’s important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

**What we can do**

The main reasons for absence are:

- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

- **“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

- **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

*Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.*

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

*For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)*

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<th>Total</th>
<th>Late Arrivals</th>
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<td>Prep - 2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 4</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>5 - 6</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>11</td>
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Parents are reminded that teachers are on yard duty from 8.45 am and that students who arrive at school prior to this time are not supervised. Any child who arrives without an adult before 8:30 am MUST go straight to the office. Children arriving at school earlier than this will be placed in Out of School Hours Care and you will be charged accordingly.

Let’s give thanks to the CFA

Early this year around 10 fires broke out in Wallan, Kalkallo and Seymour. More than 10,000 people were evacuated from their homes. The weather predicted strong winds and temperatures in the high 40s. The roads that were closed were Epping Road, Hume Highway, and Donnybrook Road. The grass fires were out of control and hundreds of fire fighters worked hard to bring the blaze under control as the fires burned more than 2000 hectares of land. Smoke was very thick which made things hard to be seen. The hospitals and doctor warned that if people are having trouble breathing due to the fires, people must go straight to see their doctor or nurse. We take this time to acknowledge and to pay respect to everyone affected by the fires.

Donations can be made to the CFA, Salvation Army and Red Cross in affected areas.

Every bit helps

Amber Poulter  HG16

This year there have been fires close to us. The fires in Wallan, Donnybrook, Werribee, Kilmore, Warrandyte, Morwell and Craigieburn have affected many families. We need to acknowledge the people affected by the fires and also thank the CFA for their brave efforts. Please show your support by donating to the Red Cross Salvation Army or CFA in your area.

Braden Ferris HG 13

Junior School Council would like to inform the school community that Wacky Hair Day will take place on Tuesday March 25th.

Thanking You all for your support

Emilia Iaconis and Jess Barden

And JSC Members and School Leaders.
After school fun with Gypsy

The team at After School Care had such a fun night with Gypsy the Rabbit. Gypsy is Reannan’s pet mini lop, she is 9 weeks old. The children had fun giving Gypsy a pat and talking to her.

In the past week we have been discovering the differences between our families and how special they are to us, making lots of different craft such as, family portraits and family trees to display in our room.

This week we are exploring ‘Autumn’ as an underlying theme as we reflect on the weather change and how it shows in our environment. We will also be encouraging everyone to have a go at cooking during the week.

Also don’t forget your hats for 2014!

Ticket in the Tub winners

Lachlan K. and Grace W

Once registered
You can make bookings and cancellations, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day.

Save on Care
Save 50% or more on Before and After School Care with the Child Care Rebate. Almost all families are eligible. To find out more call our Customer Service Team on 1300 105 343

Holiday Clubs
Don’t forget about the Camp Australia Holiday Clubs these school holidays. Use the Holiday Club Finder on the website to find the nearest program: www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs

Healthy Snacks
Afternoon tea is served daily. Menus are tailored to children’s tastes, developmental and nutritional needs. Afternoon tea includes a selection of yummy sandwiches and fruit. Children may also engage in fun cooking activities.

How to get started
Before using our programs register online for an account. This enables you to make bookings, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day. Registering is quick and easy. Visit www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents

We make kids smile
www.campaustralia.com.au
CADBURY FUNDRAISER

All money due back Wednesday 26th March.
Chocolates have been distributed to families.

Should any families wish to sell another box, please ask at the school office:

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising prices (per month) are:

Business card $15

¼ page $20, ½ page $30, Full page $60

To advertise, contact the school on 9404 1548 for further details

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Situated in the Parents & Friends Room

Open Thursday mornings 9:00-9:30am

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS OF CLOTHING THAT YOU NO LONGER REQUIRE PLEASE SEND THEM TO THE SHOP

DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED—THANK YOU :)

Next Meeting

Wednesday 19th March 2014

7:30pm Staffroom

New parents welcomed

Student Accident Insurance Arrangements: The DEECD does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or School Council employee or volunteer. Students Accident Insurance is available privately at low cost.
Dear Parents/Carers

This year we are trying something new!

YOU can now book your child(ren) student-led three-way conference ONLINE!

Student-led three-way conferences will be held at 12.00pm – 8:15pm on Tuesday 1st April.

You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST.

Go to our school website and click on the link or go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

Whether you have 1, 2, 3 or more children... You just need the above school event code.

1. Enter your details
2. Choose teachers
3. Choose times

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately. You can even add the event to your device’s calendar!

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, computer kiosks will be available at Reception from Friday 28th February 2014 onwards, so that parents can still make their own bookings. Parents may send a note to school with the approximate times they require, or phone the school on 94041548. Students with written permission from parents may also have access to the kiosk. Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on 94041548.

We would love to hear what you think about online booking. If you get time, click on the “contact us” button on the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and leave some feedback - anonymously if you wish, but please include the school’s name and suburb.
How well does your child sleep?

A study on the quality of child sleep

Who can participate?
Parents (or carers) of children aged from 2 to 10 years old

What’s involved?
We are looking at relationships between sleep hygiene, bedding, sleep environment and children’s sleep quality.
If you decide to participate, we will ask you to:

- Complete a survey online - http://tinyurl.com/childsleepsurvey
  OR
- You can complete a paper version of the survey; please contact Ru using the details below.

For more information
Please contact: Miss Ru Ying Cai
Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre
La Trobe University, Bundoora
Phone: (03) 9479 6762
Email: r.cai@latrobe.edu.au

ETHICS APPROVAL NO: FHEC13/R79