



## The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School

**Welcome** to the new 'Pulsette'; a newssheet that will be replacing the 'Pulse' newsletter once a fortnight. The Pulsette will contain a message from the Principal, information that Parents need for the coming week, as well as a small amount of community news. Major School pictorials will be produced in the 'Pulse'.....ENJOY!

### From the Principal's Desk...



**M**uch has been reported about the terrible events in the extreme heat and strong winds of last Saturday. We, as a school, have mourned the tragic loss of life that has occurred through the unfolding devastation.

The office has received many enquires about individual families in the community that live in the vicinity of the Yarra Valley and

Bunyip fires. Thankfully, to our knowledge, no family has experienced property losses but several families have evacuated their homes at various times as alerts have been issued. Several families remain on alert with fires nearby.

There are many who have been significantly impacted by the fires such as Colin Jackel and daughter, Kristy, who have been up in Connelly Creek Rd near Acheron defending a family farm since Sunday. Colin with other family members has been working long hours to set up a fire-break on the property. They are safe and are very tired having had to contend with embers and several spot fires, not to mention the ever-present smoke-filled air.

On Monday, we heard that Christian Education National member school, Plenty Valley Christian School in Doreen have had this tragedy impact significantly on their community with some thirteen families at school having lost their homes and tragically family members and two past students who have lost their lives. Plenty Valley has received amazing support but would welcome further financial support. Any donations can be made by contacting Bernie Simmonds at Plenty Valley.

There are many other ways we can assist at times like this. There have been many relief efforts advertised and donations are still being sought. On Wednesday the MDCS staff held a special morning tea with funds to contribute to the relief effort. Elsewhere in this newsletter there are other suggestions for you to consider supporting at this difficult time.

Chris Prior  
Principal

**VCE Retreat...** The girls showed their determination to study hard in 2009 (left)... (don't mess with them!!!)



**BUT** some were a little surprised at the work needed to achieve a good result!



...and others simply needed reviving!!!!



Thankfully most just settled down and got on with the job at hand!



## Parents Please Note...

### Primary or Secondary Classroom

**Helper.** Thanks to those that have already sent in an RSVP... to the rest... hope to hear from you soon! After three sessions of simple supportive training you will be ready to help our children and teachers. This is a great way of being part of the school community.

**Sessions:** Thursday 2pm

**Dates:** March 5<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup>

**R.S.V.P. to Stephanie Hanscamp**

For previously trained Class Helpers:

Please make contact with your child's teacher if you are able to help this year. They'd love to hear from you.

## REMINDERS:

- ◆ **PRIMARY** info night: 18<sup>th</sup> February  
6:45pm – Multipurpose room
- ◆ **EMA forms** – Must be received by the Office Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> for 1<sup>st</sup> installment - Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> for 2<sup>nd</sup> installment
- ◆ **Conveyance Allowance forms** are **OVERDUE...** get them into the Office ASAP
- ◆ **Early School Fee payments** are due by February 27<sup>th</sup> to qualify for the 10% discount

## GIVE COMFORT TO THE BUSHFIRE VICTIMS IN A VERY PRACTICAL WAY

Calling all those who would like to help in some small and practical way.

People who have lost their homes need something to wrap around them to give comfort, old blankets are all we have seen draped around these devastated people. All around Australia, women are getting together and making quilts to send to the Red Cross. MDCS Mum, Janet Rowe, is offering you the opportunity to be involved.

'You don't have to have sewing experience, many hands make the work easier.'

**Come to a quilt sewing night here at MDCS Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February in the Multi Purpose Room**

Afternoon session from 12pm

Evening session from 7pm

Please contact Janet Rowe on 9737 9776 or 0408 140 902 if you are interested.

Even if you can donate spare fabric, please call, every little bit helps. Invite your relatives, neighbours, friends...all you need to give up is a little time.

### GUINEA PIG ADOPTION SERVICE

Jessica (4/5W) has been hand raising some beautiful Guinea Pigs. A wide selection to choose from, easy to keep, little cost to feed & well handled from birth so lovely to cuddle. See Jessica for details, or ring 9737 9776 \$10 each (for Adoption Paperwork!)

## Book Clubs

Scholastic Book Club and Koorong Kids have been distributed to primary students last week. If your child did not receive one, or you need more, there are spare forms at the School Office. Orders should be clearly labeled with the student's name and money securely attached. All book club orders should be handed into the office.

**Scholastic Book Club orders are due by TOMORROW.**  
**Koorong Kids orders are due by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.**  
If you are unfamiliar with how book club works please feel free to contact me – Antonia Chaney.

## After School Classes 2009

Please note that throughout the year, MDCS provides opportunities for secondary students to work in a supervised environment at school after school hours. At this point in the school year, the following times have been set aside:

- ◆ Monday 3:30 – 5:30pm – Mathematics/Physics – Jacqui Stok
- ◆ Monday 3:30 – 5pm - Studio Arts – Lia Burke
- ◆ Tuesday 3:30 – 5:30pm – Mathematics/Physics – Jacqui Stok

Students should inform the teacher concerned if they wish to stay behind and should have their parents' permission. Students are to arrange their own transport home from these sessions.

## Bush Fire Response from MDCS

There are many ways to help out and MDCS students, families and staff will all be aware of various fundraisers and appeals. Congratulations to those behind the Scone effort on Wednesday which raised some \$700 or more. Another idea which has emerged from our community is CFA Day... It is one way we can respond. Please feel free to be a part of it by standing in solidarity, donating money or calling the office to see if you can help put together the photos and messages which will come out of it. See below for details:

### CFA DAY – Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

All Primary and Secondary students are invited to come to school wearing CFA Colours – Yellow and Red to honour the effort of these brave heroes and support those who have suffered due to the Bushfires. Students are welcome to bring a donation to go towards the relief effort, including MDCS' support of the Plenty Valley Christian School Community who have been directly affected. The goal of the day is two-fold. We will send money, but the students will also have an opportunity to have their photo taken in their CFA colours. The photos will be attached to paper which we will sign and write message on and send to the CFA for some much needed encouragement.