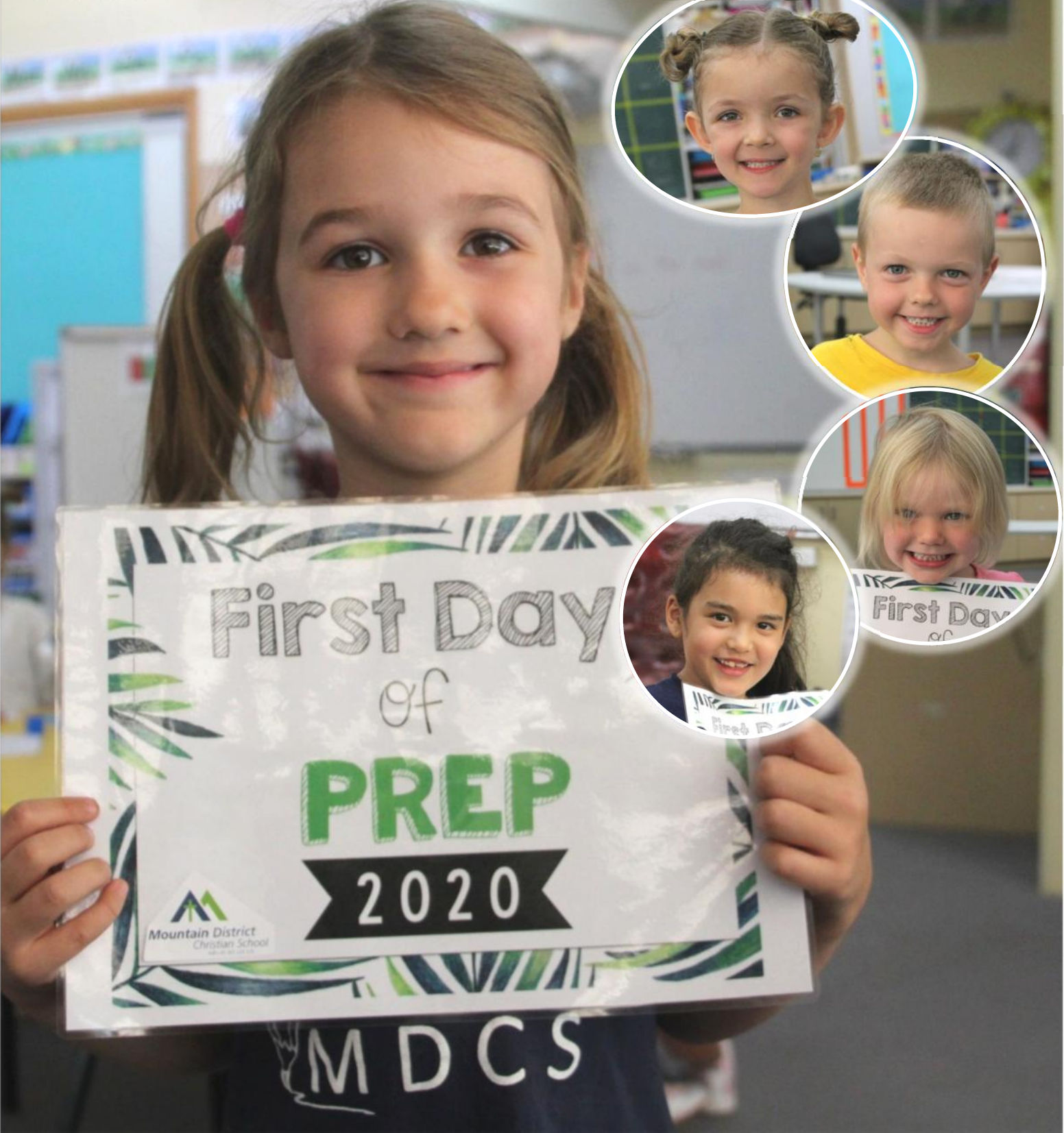




The Heartbeat of Mountain District Christian School

Welcome Class of 2033!





Welcome back to a new year. A special welcome to our new families as you join our community. It was wonderful to celebrate 40 years of God's faithfulness last year remembering those that had come before us, their commitment to the Lord, their vision for Christian education and desire for a Christian school in Monbulk. As we begin 2020, our theme for the year is Hope. James Davison Hunter writes, "Hope speaks to the fundamental need for purpose. Without a commitment to ideals that

transcend the self and that direct life beyond self-interest, one is left with a despair that is not only joyless but also indifferent toward need and thus incapable of addressing need. Hope is also intimately tied to beauty for it is images of beauty and loveliness that inspire imagination and thus expand the horizons of human possibility."

Our world is full of beauty that points towards Jesus. Even after the devastation of the recent fire, we see glimmers of new life as new shoots emerge from the trunks of burned trees. Our approach to our curriculum encourages students to see the Hope in the restoration

that Jesus brings to all of life – maths, PE, geography, history, science, all of it. It also encourages them to use their learning to recognise injustice, consider and act on ways in which the need in our communities can be addressed. As we begin this year I would encourage you to consider the word Hope and

where our hope rests – is it in things that do not satisfy or in Someone who does satisfy.



A few notices as we begin the year...

I am delighted to inform you of some new staff appointments over the holiday break. Mrs Rachel D'souza has joined the staff as our new Chaplain and Miss Katie Barth will be teaching Year 7 – 10 Art and will be Year 8 Class teacher, teaching General Studies. In addition, Mrs Kelly Lock will be teaching Science and Maths in the Secondary school.

In recent days, you may have read a number of news articles about the Novel coronavirus. For those students that are planning on attending the Indonesian Study Tour we are monitoring the situation and may need to reassess our plans to travel. Please continue to pray into the situation and for those affected by it and those working to contain its spread. I have attached **a factsheet** issued by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding advice about the virus for your reference.

You may have noticed an error on our Working Bee flyer sent home in our New Year pack. The Working Bee will be held on Saturday, February 8th.

This week is the final round of consultation with the public on the religious freedoms issue. The Attorney-General is seeking feedback by this Friday 31 January, 5pm. I encourage you to do your own research on the issue and the proposed legislation, and to advocate for greater protection of religious freedoms, no matter how brief your submission. Further information

can be found at the Australian Association of Christian Schools (AACS of which MDCS is a member school) website at <https://aacs.net.au/>. I would also encourage you to keep updated on current issues affecting our Christian Schools, by contacting AACS and subscribe to their emails directly or connect via Facebook.

A reminder that we have our MDCS Family Picnic tomorrow afternoon. We would love to see you there!

Once again welcome back. I look forward to all that 2020 holds.

Jason Riding
Principal

MDCS FAMILY

Picnic
Join us for our

MEET NEW FAMILIES

ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC GATHERING @ MDCS

FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 4-7PM

BYO PICNIC RUG, SALAD AND DRINK
SAUSAGES AND BREAD PROVIDED

CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BE UNDER PARENT SUPERVISION

TOMORROW NIGHT!

COMING HOME THIS WEEK:

- Whole School Term Letters
- Secondary student Internet Agreement Forms
- Secondary Student Mobile Consent Forms
- Yr 7-12 Production Meeting Information

REMINDER:

- Families return any outstanding 2020 Forms
- WORKING BEE NEXT SATURDAY
- School Banking starts next week
- Tuckshop starts next week
- Secondary Students return internet and mobile consent forms

Reminder for the next

WORKING BEE!



SATURDAY

8th February

8am — 3pm



**Morning tea and lunch
provided**

**Come and be part of the
community as we work
together to ready the
school for this Term!**

OOPS!

Working Bee correction

Please note
the date of our
next Working
Bee, February
not January
for those of
you that
noticed the
error in the
New Year mail
out....

Put the date
aside and join
us!



2020 Paperwork

Just a brief note to
remind all parents that
if you have not
already done so, we
need the 2020
paperwork to be
returned to the office.
This is particularly
important for direct
debit forms for fee
payments. We cannot

operate on last year's forms so we need the new
ones completed.

We also need the bus and working bee
indications to be sent back for planning purposes.

Ross Ingram
Business Manager



TERM 1, 2020

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
WK	JANUARY 19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	26	27 AUSTRALIA DAY	28 WORKBREAK	29 Prep & Year 7 Start	30 Term 1 begins Whole School	31 MDCS Annual Family Picnic	FEBRUARY 1
2	2	3	4	5 Secondary Assembly	6	7	8 WORKING BEE
3	9	10 Primary Assembly	11	12 Parent Information Night	13	14	15
4	16	17 Whole School Assembly	18 Yr 7-12 House Swimming Carnival	19	20	21	22
5	23	24 Yr 7/8 Camp Yr 9 Great Ocean Road Camp Primary Assembly (Yr 5/6)	25 Yr 7/8 Camp Yr 9 Great Ocean Road Camp	26 Yr 7/8 Camp Yr 9 Great Ocean Road Camp	27 Yr 7/8 Camp Yr 9 Great Ocean Road Camp	28 Yr 7/8 Camp Yr 9 Great Ocean Road Camp	29
6	MARCH 1	2 Primary Swimming Program Yr 10 English exc	3 Primary Swimming Program VCE O&ES Gramplans camp	4 Primary Swimming Program VCE O&ES Gramplans camp Secondary Assembly	5 Primary Swimming Program VCE O&ES Gramplans camp	6 Primary Swimming Program VCE O&ES Gramplans camp	7
7	8	9 LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	10 Yr 7&10 Immunisations	11	12	13 Yr 10-12 Formal	14
8	15	16 VCE Psychology exc Yr 12 English exc	17 Whole School Cross Country	18 Secondary Assembly	19 Parent Teacher Evening Meeting	20	21
9	22	23 Yr 9/10 Touch Rugby/Netball Primary Assembly (Yr 4/5)	24 Yr 11/12 Touch Rugby/Netball Parent Teacher Evening Meeting	25 Yr 7/8 Touch Rugby/Netball	26 Yr 7-12 SEISS Interscholar Swimming Yr 9/10 Indonesian Study Tour Departs	27 TERM 1 ENDS MEP Escape Room exc	28
	29	30 WORKBREAK	31 WORKBREAK—1st Aid Training	APRIL 1	2	3	Yr 9/10 Indonesian Trip returns 4th April

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Factsheet for school students and children

Last updated 29 January 2020

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. Cases have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as some other Chinese cities and countries, including two confirmed cases in Victoria, Australia.

What is this virus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It has not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to develop.

What if my child is well, and returning to school after being in Hubei province, China or other countries with cases in the last 14 days?

All students and staff members who have travelled to Hubei Province, China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China.

Children and staff who are well and have travelled to **other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are NOT recommended to be excluded from schools and child care services unless the following applies:**

The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus

The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days

What if my child feels sick now or within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, China or another part of China?

If your child has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, they must be excluded from school and be reviewed by a doctor.

Seek medical attention but first place a mask on the student if you have one and call the doctor or hospital before you attend. Tell them your child has been in Hubei province, China, or the location of travel within China.

When you get to the hospital or doctor's clinic, tell them where your child has travelled in China and whether this included Hubei Province. Ensure a mask is placed on your child before or as soon as you arrive at the medical facility.

If your child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

Call 000 and request an ambulance, and

Inform the paramedics where your child has been in China.

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Factsheet for school students and children

How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence. The most important actions are:

Wash your hands often with soap and water

Cough and sneeze into your elbow

Where can I get more information?

For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>

For international updates: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

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