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.

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.

Important Dates

Hello Everyone,

We have a number of children at our school with a range of special needs or disabilities.

April was Autism Syndrome Awareness month and May is Prader-Willi Syndrome awareness month.

It seems like an opportune time for us all to learn more about special needs.

Ollie, in our PREPIC program has, Prader-Willi Syndrome. In order for our community to understand more about the syndrome and to introduce Ollie to our community, Caroline, Ollie’s mother has written a wonderful article for this newsletter, which I have included after my column.

I know your heart will go out to Ollie and his family but I am also sure you will be in awe of them and the way they are working together to have the best possible outcome for Ollie.

I have also included the following excerpts from an article on disability by Michael Grose.

What is a Disability?

Disability or special needs is an umbrella term that is used to refer to a whole range of conditions. These conditions may...
present themselves as: medical conditions or genetic disorders – serious allergies, heart defect, dwarfism, diabetes, cerebral palsy, prader-willi and so on; behaviour issues – ADHD, ADD etc.; developmental issues – autism, Asperger’s spectrum disorder, Down syndrome and so on; learning issues – such as dyslexia, central auditory processing disorder or mental health issues – anxiety, depression. Different disabilities involve differing degrees of assistance and support. Depending on their individual condition, children with disabilities can fit anywhere on the spectrum between highly functioning to in need of a lot of support to fulfill basic needs.

No one would claim that parenting is easy, but when you have a child with a disability or special needs, there is a whole new level of challenge involved. There are different issues with special needs children depending on the kind of disability and their age, however there are also some issues common to all disabilities.

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, it is estimated that 1 in 12 Australian children have some kind of disability or special need. Around half of this amount – that is 1 in 24, have a profound disability that effects their ability to engage in day-to-day activities. Almost all children of school age with a disability are attending school (97 per cent) and of that number 89 per cent attend mainstream schools with the rest attending special schools. Such statistics and the educational policy of integration highlight how important understanding of the issues around childhood disabilities is for not only the parents and teachers of children with special needs, but for the community as a whole.

Thank you to PFA members, parents and house captains who made the Mother’s Day stall so successful. I hope all the Mums, carers and special female friends and relatives had a wonderful day. I was able to have a lovely lunch with my daughter Rebecca and her partner Coby. I also had a chat to my son Daniel via Skype, as he is currently living in Canada. It was also my husband Leigh’s birthday, so we shared the limelight!

A quality education is one of the greatest gifts we can give future generations. I hope parents, carers, friends and family will join in the fun during this year’s Education Week next week!

**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Years 3 and 5 students**

NAPLAN is an annual national assessment program for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students in these year levels participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The NAPLAN tests have been conducted this week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. NAPLAN reports will be issued later in the year. For more information about NAPLAN visit [www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au)

**Foundation (Prep) enrolment 2015**

We are now taking enrolments for our 2015 Foundation (Prep) classes. Please inform family, friends and neighbours that if they have a child starting school next year and would like them to come to our school to enrol them soon. It is important that children are enrolled by the end of Term 3 so that they can participate in our excellent Foundation (Prep) Orientation Program in Term 4.

Our Newsletter arrives via email. 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.

**Education Matters & Every Day Counts!**

Keep up that lifelong learning!

Julie Jones
Principal
Meet Oliver. Oliver is one of our Prepic students. He was born with a very rare genetic disorder called Prader-Willi syndrome. Ollie has faced more hurdles in his short 5 years than many will face in a lifetime. He has speech, physical and intellectual delays; he has a higher pain threshold, irregular temperature, behaviour issues, low muscular tone and the worst part of PWS, an insatiable appetite. His body’s inability to form muscle means he has a lot of difficulty with most daily tasks as everything he does is that little bit harder. He has been on daily injections of growth hormone for the past year and all going well will continue until 19 years of age, helping him form muscles giving him a little more strength.

The most concerning and troubling part of Prader-Willi syndrome is an insatiable appetite. The part of his brain responsible for receiving the messages from his stomach do not work, leaving him always feeling hungry, never feeling satisfied. The best way to describe it is to compare it to an addiction, Oliver is addicted to food. Left to his own devices he would continue eating until death. He does not have a gag reflex so will not simply bring the food back up if he consumes too much. He would either choke or in a severe case a person could eat themselves to death by bursting the stomach. This obsession with food coupled with his inability to form muscle means most of what he eats turns to fat. As a result he is on a very strict diet consisting of a few low fat, low calories, low sugar, small, healthy meals a day.

Oliver faces a future of uncertainties but one thing I’m confident in is that one day they will have a cure for Prader-Willi syndrome; unfortunately I don’t believe it will occur in Oliver’s life time. So for now his best chance at a normal, rewarding, healthy and long life is to educate as many people I can about Prader-Willi syndrome. Simply by not giving him food, keeping lunch boxes in school bags and those bags done up, not leaving unwanted food or wrappers lying around or just letting a teacher know if you see him doing something odd or wandering off on his own, are all ways you can make Oliver’s life so much easier.

If you would like more information on Oliver or Prader-Willi syndrome you can go to the Prader-Willi syndrome association of Victoria or contact myself Caroline onwrightsolarprotection@live.com.au

Thank You Caroline Wright (proudly Oliver’s mum)

As May is the month for Prader-Willi awareness, many people are giving up a beloved but unhealthy food that they consume often e.g. Coffee or cake to better understand what it is like on a daily basis for a person with PWS.

Caroline has given up chocolate, desserts and all soft drinks for the month of May and gathered sponsors through give.everydayhero.com. Something orange is worn on the 30th of May to show support for the people suffering from PWS.

For those who might wish to support Caroline and Prader-Willi research, there are orange wristbands and orange PWS ribbons available for purchase from the office. We encourage you to buy one and wear it on the 30th of May to show your support. This is not an official school fundraising activity and is totally optional, however given Ollie attends our school we believe that it definitely appropriate for us to promote this worthy cause.
Stars of the Week

Grades Prep – 6
Term 2 week 4

Home Group 1  Orlando & Grace  Home Group 2  Elaf & HG 2
Home Group 3  Charlotte  Home Group 4  Amelia & William
Home Group 5  Riley & Bronte  Home Group 9  Amy & Jonathan
Home Group 11  Alicia & George  Home Group 13  Liam & Tonisha
Home Group 14  Jonathan K & Alexis  Home Group 15  Corey & Aidan
Home Group 16  Shyleeah  Home Group 21  Shellbee & HG 21
Home Group 22  William & Sara  Home Group 23  Chloe & Anika
Home Group 24  Erin & Ken  Science  HG 13 & 2
Prep Sport Award  Kai  P.E Prep  Home Group 3
P.E. 1-6  Home Group 22  GR 1-6 Sport Award  Stephanie HG 16
The Arts – Prep  Home Group 2  Prep Artist Week  Gaurav R
The Arts – 1-6  Home Group 5  Artist s of the Week  Alicia, Caley, Jess & Chelsea

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Wow, what a great term it was in chess club last term. A win at the regional inter-school tournament and many winners in chess club. I’d like to mention that all the participants are winners because they have all been focused learners and great sports when playing the game.

Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded for winners in each chess club group. They include Jonathan H, Peter T, Ben P, Aleks, Shayden, Thomas C, Alanah F, Ryan L, Taylah B, Braden F, Chase, Charlie D, Tiernan, Jandrei and Ashton K.

Special awards are given for Most Valuable Player, Most Improved Player as well as encouragement awards. They include James G, Kara, Peter T, Aleks, Ben P, Kelsea, Alannah M, Joel, Zac S, Jacqueline D, Josh D, Charlie D, Jarrod H, Luke I and Shelby.

All chess club members receive a certificate and a small prize to acknowledge their efforts.

Congratulations everyone!

Diana Gevaux
Guess what!... We have a new resident to the science room its our blue tongue lizard. If you have an appropriate suggestion for a name for our beautiful female blue tongue, the name suggestion box is in the science room.

She is about 23cm long and she eats snails, meal worms, lizard food, small grubs and other insects. She also loves a good piece of fruit now and again.

This is what she looks like:

Jess D and Elijah
Did you know that we have FREE COUNSELLING available at MSPS for students and parents??

Established in 2009, NIRODAH specialises in providing high quality school counselling services as well as tailored programs that proactively address bullying in schools and the broader community.

Our mission is to empower young people with the knowledge and confidence to work through issues in their own lives as well as the skills and language required to actively contribute to the lowering of violence in our community.

The NIRODAH team recognise the impact that trauma has upon young people and our highly experienced counselling staff work to educate students in the strategies and skills they can adopt to positively address the impact of the trauma upon their lives. NIRODAH provides a free and easily accessible service to the community by utilising the Medicare Mental Health Rebate System (bulk billing) to place psychologists/social workers into schools.

Teeka Dour works at MSPS weekly. She is a very experienced psychologist an associate member of the Australia Psychology Society. She has extensive experience providing counselling services to a broad client group including children, adults and those with special needs.

There are great benefits to having Teeka from NIRODAH at our school:

- Safe environment for students to access psychological services.
- Little disruption to school attendance as the sessions are timetabled within the school day.
- Access to qualified and experienced psychologists.
- MSPS can offer the service to parents whose mental health is often fundamental in the health of the student and their capacity to learn.
- Behavioural and emotional issues within the school are targeted with professional guidance.
- NIRODAH is committed to providing communication with the referring doctor, client and/or guardian and school staff.
- No travel and time issues for parents who work full time.

😊 If you would like to find out more, please speak to Julie Jones or Sandi Young.
Morang South PS invites you to

Please come to our Book Fair

READING OASIS
A COOL PLACE TO DISCOVER HOT BOOKS!

Date 20th - 27th May
Time 8:30 - 9:00 am
Place Room 25

All purchases benefit our school!

Tiana's Night of Sparkle

The Tiana Ready Foundation raises money for the Children's Cancer Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital in support of Tiana Ready who battles Neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer on the 27th February 2014. To date the Foundation has raised over $105,000 which has been proudly donated to the Children's Cancer Centre in Tiana's honour.

So Ladies, please get together with a group of friends and come and join us for the 2014 “Night of Sparkle” for another fun filled night of dancing and entertainment in support of this worthy cause and hopefully this year we will be able to move even more.

It's off to “The Ballroom” this year.

Date: Saturday 29th August 7.45
Venue: The Mount on High
Address: 515 High St Epping VIC 3076
Time: 6:30pm until 12:30am
Cost: $100.00 per head (tables of 7 - 12)
Meals: 3 courses
Drinks: Wine, Sparkling, Beer & Soft Drinks (spoons at bar please)

Should you wish to attend this wonderful event either alone or with a group of friends please contact Julie Jones at MS45 or Paul on 0411 597 500 or visit the website at www.tianareadyfoundation.com
SCHOOL BANKING
Every Tuesday 9.00am in the After School Care room (OHSC)
Lots of cool rewards throughout the year along with certificates at different stages
New bankers always welcomed

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS
Books have arrived and are available from the office
@ $65, with $13 going directly to our school

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

SPECIAL LUNCH DAY
Hot Dog day to held on Tuesday 27th May
Further details to follow

5 CENTS/10 CENTS FUNDRAISER
Save those 5 & 10 cents & bring them to your classroom
to fill up your jar!!

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP
Run by Jodie Potter and Kate Rigoni
Situated in the Parents & Friends Room 25 at the back of the school
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 21st May 2014
7:30pm Staffroom
New parents welcomed
**Grades**

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Walk Safely to School Day is an annual, national event where all Primary School children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school.

It is a Community Event seeking to promote Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment.

HAPPY WALKING