IMPORTANT DATES

14th March 2013

MARCH

Fri 15th
Mon 18th - 22nd
Tues 19th
Weds 20th
Fri 22nd

Sat 23rd
Mon 25th
Weds 27th
Thurs 28th
Fri 29th
Sat 30th
Sun 31st

School kids Red Cross Day! Wear Red—gold coin donation Assembly at 9.00am
Western Region Swimming Championships
House Cross Country—Middles & Seniors @ Fyansford
History Dress up day!
Mano Market 9am-1pm! Remember to book your stall!!
Adolescent Education—Grade 6
Adolescent Education—Grade 6
SSV Swimming Champs
Last Day of Term 1 - 2:30pm finish
Good Friday Appeal Fundraiser - Gold coin donation
Good Friday
Easter Saturday
Easter Sunday

APRIL

Mon 15th
Mon 15th - Fri 3rd May
Wed 24th
Thurs 25th
Fri 26th

Start of Term 2!
Bike Ed
Geelong West District Cross Country
ANZAC Day - No School
Curriculum Day - No School
Regional Rehearsal for Victorian State Schools Spectacular

Please remember to telephone the office and speak to one of our lovely office ladies when your child is absent from school. Our procedure is to write it up in the Absence book so this can then be reconciled with the teachers’ Roll and entered into our system.
Don’t forget our assembly tomorrow is on at 9am. Wear Red and bring a gold coin donation for the Red Cross. We will also have Lachlan and Jared shaving their heads for the World’s Greatest Shave. Darcy will also be there offering his supporting after having his head shaved tonight!

Congratulations to our newly elected school councillors – Anita Elliott, Mark Sears, Catherine Johnston, Gwyn Morrison, Lisa Charter and Jeannette Orford. We look forward to welcoming you at your first school council meeting next Monday and working with you all over the next two years. Thank you to our councillors who are retiring from office for your continued support of School Council and for taking your role as the positive voice for our school seriously – Jen Cogan, Sharron Colls-Mckenzie, Sharon Boyle and Ande Santilli. A special thank you to our retiring member Elena O’Malley, who has been working on our School Council for 8 years, and continued on this year even though she no longer has children at our school.

All students at our school are unique and have their own special needs when it comes to teaching and learning. For some students the challenges are greater than others and sometimes we are not aware of these needs immediately. Other times, students present well at school but behave differently at home. From the outside, we don’t always know who these students are nor do we have all the information. This is especially true of students on the Autism Spectrum. Below is some information from Professional Development recently attended by our staff.

What Does Autism Mean? People usually call it autism (say: aw-tih-zum), but the official name is autism spectrum disorders. Doctors include autism in a group of problems that kids can have, including Asperger syndrome and others. These problems happen when the brain develops differently and has trouble with an important job: making sense of the world. Every day, our brains interpret (understand) the things we see, smell, hear, taste, touch, and experience. But when someone’s brain has trouble interpreting these things, it can make it hard to talk, listen, understand, play, and learn.

A child's symptoms could be very mild, severe, or somewhere in the middle. For example, some children might be upset by too many noises or sounds that are too loud. Children who have milder symptoms don't mind loud noises so much. Someone with mild symptoms might need only a little bit of help but a child with severe symptoms might need a lot of help with learning and doing everyday stuff. Children with autism often can't make connections that other kids make easily eg: when people smile, you know they feel happy or friendly; when people look mad, you can tell by their face or their voice. Many children who have autism spectrum disorders have trouble understanding what emotions look like and what another person is thinking. They might act in a way that seems unusual, and it can be hard to understand why they're doing it.

Children on the autism spectrum don't always understand their feelings or emotions and often do need help and guidance with strategies to deal with them. Examples of why anxiety and anger may be heightened for a child on the autism spectrum are getting a new teacher, having to make choices, being around lots of people, getting work wrong, when others will not play with them, perception of being treated unfairly, someone shouting at them, when someone interferes in a game or with their belongings, when they lose a game, a change in routine without warning, not being listened to or getting a turn, being told they are wrong.

Our greatest gift to each other is understanding, tolerance and forgiveness as we work through any challenges we have to face. As I said, from the outside we don't know all the facts behind decisions made or why things happen at school, even if you are often at school, on a committee, or even on School Council. If you have a query, please come and ask immediately rather than relying on speculation or someone else's opinion.

Congratulations to Esther, her team and all our students at OHSC for their fantastic cupcake sale. I look forward to hearing how much money you raised for the One Hundred for 100 project. Well one everyone.

Best wishes to all our Yr 3-6 students for next week’s Cross Country at Fyansford Common. I know your training will pay off for you. Good Luck!

Appreciations:
- To our mums who worked hard today organising plates for our Mano Market cake stall. I hope that everyone will contribute so that their hard work is rewarded.
- To everyone who baked cupcakes for the OHSC – One Hundred for 100 project. They looked magnificent and were delicious!

Communication is vital – Keep reading the newsletter!

Be on time, Be at school, that’s the rule!

Let’s keep Unleashing Potential!
Marina Keegan
Principal
Congratulations to the following students who have been rewarded for their efforts towards “RESPECT” and making ‘Mano’ a better place.

**PB**  RHYS TOMLIN - For showing enormous levels of respect to his peers, his teachers & his learning! Spot on, Riley!

**PH**  ERIN GIBSON - For being a great listener and always doing her very best! Great effort, Erin!

**PS**  GUS DONOHUE - For his beautiful manners, he never interrupts, always puts up his hands and says please and thank you! What a wonderful preppy!

**JB**  KIAM CAMPBELL - For putting in an amazing amount of effort into his work and achieving his work goals. Keep it up!

**JF**  CLAUDIA SARGEANT - For showing kindness to others and for her positive attitude to school! What a star!

**JMB**  HARIZ AZAMAN - For confidently tackling new tasks and for his enthusiastic approach to school!

**JO**  PANI SAF - For being a terrific member of the class and a thoughtful friend! Well done, Pani!

**MB**  ASHLEY WILSON - For fantastic efforts with his writing and being an excellent role model for listening and manners in the classroom! Well done, Ashley!

**MC**  MADDI SWEEDY - For showing a brilliant attitude to everything at school - a conscientious learner and a considerate and friendly!

**MH**  HEIDI TARKA - For her beautiful manners and respect she always shows to other teachers and students! Well done, Heidi!

**MS**  TESSA GAMB - For standing strong and resolving conflict in a calm, respectful manner! You’re tremendous, Tessa!

**SB**  MOLLY DRISCOLL - For putting in 110% effort into all tasks and challenging herself to develop her thinking!

**SN**  FAHDA AZAMAN - For being switched on to learning during each session and modelling excellent manners every single day!

**SS**  KYAL ROEPKE - For being well mannered and polite at all times and making good choices towards his learning!

**SW**  NOAH NADOLSKI - For showing respect for his learning, being an active member in class discussions and workshops! You are a star, Noah!

**Excursion Permission Notes/Payments:** Just a reminder to ensure that when returning signed permission notes (for excursions etc) that your payment is also enclosed in the payment envelope. It can be very confusing for teachers and office staff if the payment and the permission note are returned separately.

**Entertainment Books**—The 2013/14 books are coming soon and have some fabulous new offers in them! Staff from Entertainment Books will be at the Mano Market on 23/3/13 taking pre-orders.

**Reminder**
- The All-Star Book Fair will be held in the Library every day next week from 3.30pm to 4.30pm. Take this great opportunity to purchase some excellent books and stationery at affordable prices. Remember every purchase you make will help our school raise funds to purchase books for our wonderful library.

**Look forward to seeing you there!**

**Cake Stall**
Plates have gone out today to all families. Please bake something yummy for our cake stall (remember—no cream). Extra plates are available at the office if you would like to cook any

*Any queries, please call Cath Johnston on 0449 260 462*

**Dear Families,**

Please note that the History dress up day will be postponed till early Term 2. A note will come home once a new date has been sorted out. Sorry for any inconvenience.

*History Specialist - Lisa Charter*
Uniform Screen Printing

Do you have plain school uniform items that need to have the school logo put on them? There will be a screen printing service run this month.

Drop off shirts, jumpers etc to the office by 9am on Friday the 15th of March. Pick up will be at 9am on Monday the 18th. $2.50 per item to be included with clothes in a named bag (exact change only please)

Enquiries to Jenny 0434 390 054 or dkw4jjt@optusnet.com.au

Number of items: ______________________  Total cost: ____________________

Manifold Heights Primary School Cross Country Timetable

Venue:
Fyansford Common

Times:  
Event:  
11:10am  Girls 10 years and under  
11:30am  Boys 10 years and under  
12:20pm  Girls 11 years  
12:35pm  Boys 11 years  
12:55pm  Girls 12/13 years  
1:20pm  Boys 12/13 years

Thank you so much to Mark Stewart and Tony Azzopardi from Young Australia, everyone from Mano had such a wonderful time rocking away to yesterday's performance and we have had a number of rave reviews from some of our students, we cannot wait to hear even more great things about yesterday's show!

Mark and Tony presented a history of percussion through the ages, using a large range of drums and hand percussion. The program featured rhythms and patterns used in all types of music and included a student participation segment, for which there was no shortage of volunteers!!

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Mano Market

Just a reminder that sites are available to the public for $20 and are selling fast. The PR/Fundraising Team meet on Tuesday nights @ 7.30pm at The Chifley—everyone welcome. We are looking for any mums/dads who are nurses/ambos/First Aid trained and would be available to be “on call” for an hour or so at the market. Please let the office know if you can help us with this. We also have a roster up at the office for other help on the day so please come and put your name down for and hour or two. Many hands make light work!