Dear Families and Community Members,

Welcome back everyone to the beginning of Term Two. It is wonderful to see all our students return safely from their holidays ready for an exciting and busy term.

Our first term ended on a high note. We had a great learning expo and assembly on the second last day and a wonderful day at the LBDSSA athletics sports—culminating in a victory for Maroona PS. This was a deserved reward for weeks of hard work led by our teaching staff and our wonderful parent volunteers. Thank you to everyone who helped out in Term One, especially Simone King, who came in every week to work with groups of students.

Congratulations to all students for upholding our school values throughout the course of the day, putting their best foot forward and competing with determination and persistence. Also, congratulations to Kiora Day, Jack Richardson, Olivia King and George King for being awarded age group champion medals. Photos and a report of the day can be found inside the newsletter.

Keeping with the sports theme, our students recently competed in interschool cross country trials at Moyston Primary School. Our students performed exceptionally and we will have a strong contingent of runners competing at the Black Ranges Cross Country at St Arnaud in a few weeks time. Photos and a report from the day are inside the newsletter.

There have been a number of jobs completed around the school recently. Thank you to Susie and Gav for cutting up the fallen branch near the southern fence line and pruning the gum trees and Craig and Jayne Drum for their work on the outdoor kitchen area—the paneling looks fantastic. The only pressing jobs that remain are to replace some of the rotting fence posts on the northern, corrugated iron fence of the school and help install our hoses. Please get in touch if you are able to help out in any way.

Finally, one of my favourite things about our school and our community is the way former Maroona Primary students stay connected to our school, long after they graduate. Examples of this recently having included a large contingent of secondary school students helping out on sports day and students coming in to volunteer at our school on their days off. It certainly reinforces the culture of our school feeling like a big family and is greatly valued by me and all staff.

Warm Regards
Darren Beer
beer.darren.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
GROUP DAY AT MOYSTON

On Friday the 29th of March the whole school went to Moyston for a group day. The main activity was the cross country trials to see if we could qualify for Black Ranges.

When all the schools had arrived at Moyston we were split into our age groups. I was in the 10 and up age group. First, my group did the cross country trials. The teachers had set out a course which was 1km long. I had to run three laps, younger students ran one or two.

First we all walked around the course with the teachers so we knew where we had to run. When we got back, we all lined up at the starting line. We had to beat 15 minutes to make it to Black Ranges. Then suddenly I heard “GO!” so off we all ran.

After three laps of running I saw the finish line up in front of me. The moment I saw the end I started to sprint as fast as I could until I flashed past the finish line. My face was red and I was very tired but when I heard the teachers call out my time that didn’t matter because my time was 14:47, so I had made it!

The next activity we did was art. We were doing Easter artwork where we folded a piece of paper so it would look like a chick that had popped out of an egg. We watched a video step by step so we knew how to do it. Then, before we knew it, it was lunch. Most of us had ordered hamburgers and juice boxes for lunch. So we ate our lunch and had a play.

The last activity was the 1 minute challenges. We were split into four groups. The first challenge my group did was where you had to try to get as many ping pong balls into a plastic cup, by bouncing them on your table. The second was where you had to blow a bubble and use your breath to float the bubble through a hula-hoop. The third was the balloon challenge. First we started with one balloon and we had to keep it off the ground using only our breath. Then we were allowed to use one of our fingers, but then we had to keep two balloons off the ground. The last challenge was to bounce a ping pong ball off the table and on the a slice of bread covered in peanut butter.

Overall, we had a great day at Moyston and can’t wait until the trials, next year.

Sophia Coad
Wow! We have already started term two and as someone pointed out to me the other day we are almost a quarter of the way to Christmas! I hope everyone had a relaxing and restful break and I gather that the Easter bunny definitely found his way to the district and left plenty of eggs for the students.

**Student Of The Fortnight**
This fortnight’s well-mannered student is **Thomas Gellie**. **Thomas** bounces into school each morning with a lovely welcoming smile and a cheery good morning. He always uses ‘please, thank you and excuse me’ and addresses people using their name. Congratulations Thomas on your exemplary manners!

**Reading Milestones**
We have heaps of great readers this newsletter including some who managed to keep reading almost every day throughout the holidays. Congratulations to Alice who has read for 25 nights this year and received her first certificate; Lucy, William B, Emma, and Max who have read for an amazing 50 nights; Thomas, Emily A, Olivia and William J who have reached an incredible 75 nights of reading and Olivia and William J who have managed to read for an unbelievable 100 nights! Well done to all you fantastic readers and your parents!

**V.C.O.P. Big Write**
This term we will be writing procedural texts for our Big Writes with the first Big Write happening next week. Watch out for the Big Write talk homework which will be sent home and be sure to talk to your child about it– remember ‘if they can’t talk about it, they can’t write it’!

**Art**
We have started our secret ‘Mother’s Day gifts’ and all the students are very excited about the surprise they have in store for their mums. If you haven’t sent along a cup and saucer, mug, jar or something for them to use for your surprise then could you try to do this as soon as possible as there’s not many art lessons until Mother’s Day.

**Responsible Pet Education**
On the last day of term 1 we had a couple of special visitors to the school. The first was Liz who brought her dog Garth. With her to do responsible pet ownership sessions with the upper and lower classes. The students learnt lots about caring for dogs as well as how to safely approach a dog. They were fascinated by Liz’s dog as it was an Italian greyhound- a type of miniature greyhound that was not much taller than Tommy (and they both got on very well)!

The second visitor that came on the final day of term was.... **Easter Bunny!** He managed to hide lots of eggs in the big room which the students all enjoyed finding.
**Upcoming Events**

## April/May

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**Save the Date**

We have having a special event at school on Thursday the 9th of May in the morning. Please save date. More information to follow.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

William Barr (6) 3rd of April
Emma Barr (6) 19th of April
Darren Beer 20th of April