From the Principal
Welcome to the 2015 school year, especially to our new staff, students and their families (listed below). I hope the summer break has been a relaxing, enjoyable time for your family. We're looking forward to a productive year for our school and supporting your child in achieving their full potential.

This is a rather lengthy newsletter containing lots of information about school processes. Please take a moment to read and contact our office if you have any queries.

Communication - Effective communication is an important aspect of ensuring successful partnerships with parents. A vital link between school and home is through our message books which allow regular communication between teacher and parent. Another important form of communication is our weekly newsletter which is sent home on Tuesdays. The newsletter is also available on our website at: https://education.tas.edu.au/miandettaprimary/ or via email if requested. Please advise the office if you would prefer an email copy of the newsletter.

Our school Facebook page is used to promote school events, student achievements and to issue reminders and notices. The page is Miandetta Primary School, Tasmania. All information posted on the Facebook site will still continue to be communicated through the newsletter and message books. These will still be our main form of communication.

Points to note about our Facebook page:
• Posts will remain hidden until approved by the Administrator.
• Photos of students are not permitted to be posted.
• Posts or comments that are offensive, in bad taste or use inappropriate language for a general audience will be hidden.
• Parents are reminded of Facebook’s Terms of Service which states the minimum age for a Facebook user is 13 years. This is a parental responsibility to enforce.
• Please read the ‘About’ section of the page for a full outline of our focus.
• This page is not a form of communication with the school. If you have any questions or messages please continue to call the school as the page will not be constantly monitored.

Our school website can be used for your convenience to access school newsletters, good character application forms, the parent handbook, uniform order forms and more by clicking on the link below: https://education.tas.edu.au/miandettaprimary/

Please feel free to contact me through the school office as I welcome your views and opinions.

Volunteers - We value the contributions of volunteers in our school and have been fortunate to have received support in a variety of areas including classroom support, committee membership, fundraising, accompanying excursions and the list goes on...However, additional help is always welcome! There are however departmental requirements around good character checks for those people supporting our students - please see over page for more details.

Student Validation and Excursion Permissions
Thankyou to those parents who completed validation forms on book sale day. This information is required to ensure we have current information and contact details. Please return any completed medical action plans to the school office as soon as possible.

Staff Preparation and Professional Learning Day
Our teachers have been busy over the last few days preparing for the return of students. Thankyou for your efforts. On Monday, staff spent time reviewing departmental policies and aspects of our school plan. Copies of our School Plans are available from the office if you would like specific details of our priorities for this year.

Building Refurbishment and Class Locations
During the break our old staffroom and resource rooms were refurbished as light and spacious classrooms. I’m sure students from Prep Carn and P/1 Somers will appreciate these new spaces. This year classes are located in different blocks. A map for your information is attached.

Welcome - A big welcome to Mrs Brooke Freshney who after a number of years at East Devonport Primary School has transferred to Miandetta. Brooke will be teaching Kinder. I have attached a staff list to the newsletter for your information. We also welcome a number of new students. They are: Liam Amos, Luke Bugeja, Chloe Burgess, Damaris Chesterfield, Billy Chisholm, Angus Clark, Logan Dolega, Ben Durham, Saxon Dyke, Beliah-Lea, Luke Franey, Maximilian Heung, Jaxon Hope, Elle Hunter, Caitlyn Johnston, Kiara Johnstone, Hugo Mainwaring, Maharli Mawby, Mitchell McCall, Owen McCall, Maddison McCoy, Keira-Lee Mus, Daisy O’Neill, Lilly Palaniza, Mahalia Pennell, Giselle Porter, Kayden Ray, Tara Scells, Lucy Smith, Spencer Smith, Patrick Storay, Alice Sutton, Maddison Wall, Abbey Whyte and Chad Woodberry.

Mandy Beard
SCHOOL REMINDERS

Student Absence Process
Student absences and late arrivals are monitored by the school on a daily basis. Parents are asked to notify the school office by 9:15am on the morning of an absence by calling 6424 4428 or by text messaging 0448 539 906. If notification has not been received, the office will contact parents for an explanation. A reminder that students who arrive after 8:55am must sign into the late register. Thank you.

Good Character Checks
Volunteers assisting as helpers and coaches are required by the department to have a current Good Character Check. This includes; classroom support, excursions, swimming programs, coaching etc. A Good Character application form is attached to this newsletter with copies also available from classroom teachers and the office. Please note that Good Character Checks expire after three years from the date of issue. You are welcome to check at the office if you are unsure of your expiry date as you will not receive notification by mail.

Sun Safe School
Reminder - As a sun safe school we require all children to wear protective hats until the end of April. We have sun screen available at school but encourage the daily application of sunscreen before school. Thank you for your support.

Allergy Awareness
This symbol indicates we are an allergy aware school and everyone is encouraged to:

- Not send nuts and nut products to school
- Educate children to wash hands after eating
- Dispose of any rubbish or any uneaten food appropriately
- Discourage the sharing of food and drink

Detailed information in relation to being Allergy Aware accompanies this newsletter.

Miandetta Primary School is involved in the Asthma and Anaphylaxis School Program and further information will be provided in future newsletters.

Mobile Phones
All students who wish to bring their mobile phones to school must fill in a Mobile Phone Policy form which is available at the office. This needs to be signed by the parent/carer and class teacher. Forms from previous years are no longer valid and we require a new form please.

Car parking
Parents are reminded to use the parent or overflow carparks to minimise movement in the staff carpark to ensure the safety of our children. Parents and students are asked to use designated pathways and not walk through the staff carpark. Thank you.

Turning Circle Drop Off/Pick Up
The turning circle is intended as a drop-off, pick-up area, not a standing area for cars. We seek your support in ensuring buses are not delayed. When using other access areas such as Wiena Cr etc, please park in designated parking areas and do not block residents’ access. Thank you for your support.

Scooters and Bikes
Students who ride their scooters and bikes to school are reminded to dismount when entering the school grounds. Bikes and scooters should be housed on or near the bike rack during school hours. Thankyou.

Court / Parenting Orders
Could parents please provide a copy of any current court/parenting orders to the office. Thank you.

Uniform Order
Our first uniform order for the year will be placed on Thursday 26 February. Please ensure all orders with payment are made by this date.

Please be aware that any items that are supplied by Tasmanian Clothing will take at least 6 weeks to arrive. There is no exception to this. Parents please plan ahead for the seasons and consider winter purchases now.

Term Dates ~ 2015
Term 1 4 February - 2 April (Easter: 3 April - 7 April)
Term 2 20 April - 3 July
Term 3 20 July - 25 September
Term 4 12 October - 17 December

Professional Learning Days:
Monday, 20 July, Friday 23 October

Moderation Day:
Thursday, 2 April

Disclaimer: Parents should note that advertisements for educational services, companies, activities or similar events are published as ‘community service’. Miandetta Primary School is in no way liable for the quality, supervision or integrity of the provider and strongly suggests that parents make their own enquiries before engaging with the advertised event.

Dates to Remember
February 4 Term 1 Begins ~ 2014
February 11 Launching Little Learners Commence
February 26 Uniform Orders and Payment Due
March 9 Public Holiday
2 April Moderation Day - No School
2 April Term 1 Ends
20 April Term 2 Begins
Lost Property/School Picnic Items
There are a number of lost property items from the end of the year and also many towels, bathers and more from the school picnic. If your child has any items missing, please check lost property prior to 13 February as all items will be donated to charity after this date. Thank you.

Breakfast Club
Our school was chosen in late 2013 to be funded to provide a breakfast club for our students. This fantastic resource enabled many of our students to come to school and enjoy breakfast amongst friends. Unfortunately it cannot recommence unless we have your support.

Last year we were able to open our breakfast club on two mornings a week; Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have any spare time between 8:30 and 9:00 in the morning, please contact either myself or the school office to let us know of your availability. We appreciate any time that you are able to give. You do not have to be available at a regular time each week; any time that you are able to provide would be appreciated.

Many Thanks ~ Pip Evans - Breakfast Club Convenor

DVD's and Videos
At times class teachers wish to show students movies as part of their program or as a reward. Many movies now have a PG rating. If your child is in Grade 3 to 6 and you DO NOT wish them to view PG rated movies, please complete the form below and return to class teachers by Wednesday 11 February. Early Childhood teachers will communicate personally with parents about viewing of electronic material.

**2015 DVD and Video Viewing - Primary students**

My child __________________________ in ___________________(class) does not have permission to watch any PG rated movies.

Name ___________________________ Signed ___________________
Launching Little Learners
Launching Little Learners will be commencing next Wednesday, 11 February starting at 9am in the kinder room. This is for children aged between birth - 4 accompanied by a guardian. Hope to see you there!

Sports News - Information for all autumn and winter rosters including netball, soccer, basketball and hockey will soon be advertised in the newsletter. Watch this space!

Devon Netball News - We are now organising 3/4 Netta and 5/6 primary netball teams to play in the Devon Netball Association 2015 winter roster. More details about netball can be gained from the office or David Carter. As team nominations close on 23 February, it is important to leave your child’s name at the school office if they are interested in playing netball in this roster
Allergy Awareness

Some students in our school have severe allergies and are at risk of life threatening emergencies. We ask for your support in caring for these children.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction. It often involves more than one body system (e.g. skin, respiratory system – causing swelling of the airways and preventing breathing, gastrointestinal and cardiovascular). Peanuts, tree nuts, milk, egg, fish, shellfish, sesame, soy and wheat cause 90% of food allergic reactions in Australia, however any food containing protein can cause anaphylaxis in a susceptible individual. Other common causes of anaphylaxis include insect stings, medications and latex.

The number of children with severe food allergies is increasing. Some children have a single food allergen whilst others may have multiple food allergies. Schools are encouraged to implement several strategies to reduce the risk of anaphylaxis. Some schools will place restrictions on certain foods being brought into the school as well as foods sold through the school canteen. Where restrictions are in place, please try to abide by them. Other risk minimisation strategies can include:

- Hand washing after eating
- Appropriate food handling
- Eating in designated areas at a specified time

We understand that as some children have a number of allergies, it may be impractical to impose restrictions on foods brought into the school as it could significantly limit other students’ diets. Where this is the case, extra care needs to be taken particularly when eating. Students can assist by:

- eating only at designated times and in designated areas
- disposing of any rubbish or uneaten food appropriately
- encouraging the non-sharing and trading of food and drinks
- being aware of an allergic student’s high risk foods and not bringing them into the school whenever possible
- washing hands before and after eating.

One of the most beneficial ways parents can help is by educating their non allergic children about allergies and encouraging them to wash hands after eating and to be responsible with their food. It is important to understand that even trace amounts of food can cause life-threatening reactions if ingested. Preventative measures are extremely important and help to limit the danger to students with allergies whilst they are slowly learning to care for themselves in the real world. Nuts, Egg, Dairy, Sesame, Soy, Seafood and Wheat are some foods that can cause anaphylaxis, even in small trace amounts.

Your assistance with hygiene and handling food appropriately is appreciated.

Children at risk of anaphylaxis carry an EpiPen (auto injector containing a pre measured dose of adrenaline) and Anaphylaxis Action Plan with them at all times. Teachers and staff have been trained in the management and emergency treatment of severe allergic reactions, which includes administration of an EpiPen before ambulance transport to hospital for further emergency care.

Your assistance and understanding are greatly appreciated. More information on anaphylaxis or the Be a M.A.T.E. (make allergy treatment easier) program can be obtained from www.allergyfacts.org.au or www.asthmatas.org.au.