It is hard to believe we are drawing to the end of another year. We have so much to be thankful for, and I would like to extend my thanks to our school council, volunteers, staff, parents and of course the students for a successful year at Montague.

We received a wonderful donation from the South Melbourne Community Chest of $4,000. This money will be used to support our Mindfulness program in 2017. We are looking forward to inviting families and members of the community to attend some weekend Mindfulness sessions, so they too can experience it and find some peace and fulfilment in their busy lives. We are excited to announce that the lovely Janet Etty-Leal will be returning to host all of our sessions in 2017.

We are busy planning our curriculum for 2017 at the moment. Parent packs were sent home during November for re-enrolling in 2017. These are due back at the office by December 9th. Thank you to those families who have already completed and returned their forms, it makes life easier in the office when forms are returned promptly.

After all of her hard work this year, we are happy to announce that Ella will be remaining with us next year. Congratulations Ella!

I enjoyed my sleepovers at school this month, when I joined in the Silver Duke camp at school.

We are so proud of Phillip who has completed his SBAT and now has a permanent position at Qantas. Please read the full article on page 2. It shows what a bit of determination and resilience can achieve. Well done Phillip!

I look forward to seeing you all next Thursday.

End of Year Celebration
Thursday 8th December
9am-11:30am

Geri

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

Epictetus
Phillip’s Journey

In April 2015, Montague CEC student, Phillip Pearson, was selected to undertake a School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT) for Ground Staff with Qantas Australia at Tullamarine. This was organised by Adam Jennings from an Indigenous Group Training Organisation based in Adelaide. To Phillip’s credit he sourced this SBAT himself and then was ably assisted and supported by Montague CEC staff.

Phillip was so excited and keen. The traineeship commenced in the mid-year school holiday break 2015, for 10 consecutive business days of Qantas-specific customer service training. Phillip was then required to work at Qantas a minimum of one day per week and one day a week completing Certificate 2 in Customer Service. For Phillip to complete the certificate he required on going assistance from RTO and school staff due to his learning difficulties and his low confidence in what he perceives as ‘school work’.

Obviously at ‘work’ Phillip was enthusiastic and certainly had the skills to be part of the Qantas customer service team as most weeks he worked extra shifts and actually rarely attended Montague but had contact via emails and phone calls.

Earlier this month Phillip successfully completed all components of his SBAT and was offered a direct role at Qantas, which commenced during November 2016.

We are very proud of Phillip’s achievements and believe he will be an invaluable member of the Qantas customer service team.

Remembrance Day at the Shrine

Kailup, Ash, Josh H and Nick K attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance on 11th November. They presented two wreaths made by Montague students. Ella was very proud of the way the students represented the school.
Josh P Awarded

From the MFB’s Newsletter:

Acting Station Officer Mark Crowe and Marthese Kavanagh from MFB’s Community Resilience Emergency Management department visited Montague Continuing Education Centre on Tuesday to make a presentation to one of the young film makers who entered MFB’s inaugural Student Fire Safety Film Competition, which was held as part of MFB’s 125th Anniversary celebrations.

Joshua’s movie on barbecue safety was entered in the Secondary Specialist Schools category.

Joshua and the rest of the senior class took the opportunity to find out a bit more about fire safety A/SO Crowe and Marthese were on hand. There were several quite experienced cooks in the group, so a lively discussion on safe cooking ensued. Great job by all involved!

Thank You South Melbourne Community Chest

Jodie was very excited to attend a presentation celebration from South Melbourne Community Chest earlier this month.

We are truly appreciative of the wonderful donation of $4,000 that was generously donated to the school. This money has been allocated towards the 2017 Mindfulness Program, including parent and community sessions so that everyone can benefit from the engaging work of Janet Etty-Leal.

The presentation ceremony was wonderful, with over 20 different community groups represented to receive grants.

The groups ranged across cultures, ages (kinders to senior citizen centres) and requirements (from The Men’s Shed, to groups assisting homeless people, to supporting volunteer associations so they can provide a thank you lunch for their volunteers).

It was so positive to see so many groups there to support the community. If you would like to help with donations to the South Melbourne Community Chest, we are sure the energetic and enthusiastic volunteers would be more than happy to accept!

South Melbourne Community Chest Op Shop, 202 Bank Street, South Melbourne

[Image of a chest with an illustration of a celebration and text: It’s not far away, and we are looking forward to celebrating the student’s achievements on Thursday 8th December]
Resilience Excursion to Clip n’ Climb

Last week the whole school went to Clip n’ Climb in Richmond. We went there to climb because Montague students participated in a Resilience survey earlier on in the year for the City of Port Phillip. We climbed different kinds of walls each with different designs and features. We also climbed a rope and a ladder. We had a chance to do the leap of faith which involved climbing a ladder to a platform and jumping to a punching bag or a bar. We could also go down a slide. Students wore a special suit and a helmet and got pulled up to the top of the slide where they had to drop. It was tiring and hurt our hands but was lots of fun. When we came back to Montague we ate pizza and looked at the videos and the photos that we took on the day.

Nikki, Kailup, Ryan, Daniel and Ash.
Preparing for Duke 2017

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been a strong feature of the Montague program for many years. It encourages students to develop into well-rounded young people by making a commitment to developing a skill, participating in physical exercise and volunteering to help the community weekly for a period of time. Participants also challenge themselves by planning and undertaking two camps. In 2017 Montague will be running the Award at the Bronze level for those participating for the first time. Ella is available to talk with parents and carers about eligibility and program requirements.

Thank You Hanyang

Hanyang Goh has again volunteered his time to share his bike maintenance skills with Bronze Duke participants this year. His expertise and enthusiasm has been integral to the success of the bike maintenance program over the past few years and we are sad that he will be unable to return in 2017. We wish Hanyang well at his new office and thank him for all his hard work.
Last Friday 25th November a group of Montague students braved the cloudy weather to attend the SSSSA interschool swimming carnival at the Ashburton outdoor pool. Students competed in freestyle, breaststroke and relay events and represented their school with pride. Particular congratulations should go to Olivia who came fourth in her freestyle event and Mackenzie for coming second in the 25m breaststroke. Well done everyone!

This Term for interschool sport a group of students from Montague CEC played cricket. We won 4 of our games and lost 1. It was fun playing with everyone and also because we were very good. We only just missed out on the finals because the other team was undefeated and we lost one game.

By Nick K
My Experience with Seda was really fun and gave the group of sport kids like Brady, Mac, Liv, Yash Nick, Ash, Jai, and myself Ryan. Most of what we did on these days was learning tips on how to bowl straight and when you throw to the person behind the stumps to get them out easier. These tips helped out a lot for the next game we had against Emerson where the score was 19-Emerson, 54-Montague.

Being at Montague for only a few months in the way how much I feel included into most thing that I would of never do at my old school. Also how friendly the other kids are in this other school made me feel very happy, they were very nice and welcoming to join me into their group of friends.

By Ryan

Silver Melbourne Camp

Students who missed out on the Duke Surf Coast walk made up for it trekking around Melbourne and around the bay. Ella joined the walkers and Geri was included in the sleepover for a girls-night-in x 2! She said everyone was so exhausted after the walk they went straight to sleep at lights out!!

Student’s Pixel Exhibition

Earlier in the year, Sotiria helped the students prepare works for the Pixel Prize. The students had their photographic work on display at the pixel exhibition earlier this month.
Thunderstorm Asthma Warning

Thunderstorms have been linked to epidemics of asthma, especially at the end of Spring, when grasses are flowering. An asthma attack can be life threatening. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing should call 000.

Anyone with a known history of asthma is at risk of experiencing an exacerbation of their usual symptoms at this time. In addition, people who do not usually experience symptoms of asthma but have a history of allergies may be at increased risk. The common signs of asthma are difficulty in breathing (gasping for air), chest tightness and wheezing.

If a child’s condition is deteriorating, parents or guardians should seek urgent care. Signs of rapid deterioration include little or no relief from a reliever inhaler, inability to speak comfortably, or lips turning blue. People with asthma should continue to use their usual medications. Where possible, stay inside when the weather is windy with high pollen counts or dust.

If a child’s condition is deteriorating, parents or guardians should seek urgent care. Signs of rapid deterioration include little or no relief from a reliever inhaler, inability to speak comfortably, or lips turning blue.

Please update the office with any medical conditions that teachers and staff need to know about. If you need a new asthma plan please call the school 9690 3535.

Dates for Your Diary—December

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silver Duke Camp</td>
<td>Silver Duke Camp</td>
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<td>Gardening Program</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>Celebration Breakfast at MCG 9-11:30am</td>
<td>Re-enrolment forms due back</td>
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<td>Swimming at MSAC</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Mindfulness @ Bentleigh Secondary</td>
<td>ADEC opening or RAAF museum</td>
<td>Melbourne Museum</td>
<td>Cooking or Work education at school</td>
<td>1000 Steps or St Kilda pier walk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collingwood Children’s Farm &amp; Abbotsford Convent</td>
<td>Final day—students dismissed at 1:30pm</td>
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