

MELBA HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE *MUSTANGS*

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Melba Jr/Sr High School Parents and Guardians,

The air is crisper, fall has arrived, and great things continue to happen here at Melba Jr/Sr High School. The year is going well so far. I have enjoyed seeing you at school events and activities that we have had. I really appreciate the help and time that many of you have volunteered to help make these events possible. Here is what is going on at the Jr/Sr High School in October.

Cancer Awareness Week – We will be participating in Cancer Awareness Week the week of October 4 – 8. This week is sponsored by HOSA. There will be various activities during lunch of that week. Our students will also be participating in some “Pink Out” dress-up themes for the home Volleyball game vs. New Plymouth on Tuesday, October 5th and during the Home Varsity Football game vs. New Plymouth on Friday, October 8th.

Anti-Bullying Week in the Jr. High School- The Jr. High will kick off National Anti-Bullying Month with a week of activities. Each day they will have a dress up day. Monday is “wear blue”, Tuesday is “crazy socks”, Wednesday is, “School Spirit”, and Thursday they will participate in the “wear pink” day with the High School. The Jr. High students will also have activities and lessons during advisory that will address bullying and getting along with others.

College Application Week – More information on this can be found in the Counselor's Corner newsletter that was sent out with this letter. College Application Week will be October 11th through the 14th. There will be activities during lunch each day as well as an opportunity for students to meet with local alumni and representatives from different colleges and universities. Students in the 12th grade will fill out applications and there is a FAFSA night that week as well.

End of the First Quarter October 14- The end of the first quarter will be Thursday, October 14th. Please check PowerSchool and work with your student to see that he or she is up to date on all assignments for class by this date. The end of the first quarter is a good midterm indicator of how your student is doing in class.

PSAT Day October 13- On Wednesday, October 13th, every 10th grader will take the PSAT. The PSAT is a national standardized test. Students who take the PSAT generally score much better on the SAT or other college entrance exams than students who do not take it. One of the State

graduation requirements is that a student will take a college entrance exam. This exam, the SAT, is administered during a student's 11th grade year. We want each of our students to feel prepared to take this test so each 10th grader will take it. In past years, every student in grades 7-11 took the test but this year, we decided to limit it to 10th graders only as they will be taking the exam the next year.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on November 4th from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and November 5th from 9:00am -2:00pm. We will be holding face-to-face conferences in our building. We ask that parents screen themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 and do not attend conferences if they are feeling ill. If you are uncomfortable attending conferences in the building, please contact your child's teacher and we will make other arrangements. Students generally perform better in school when their parents are involved and attend Parent Teacher Conferences. We look forward to meeting with you.

Haunted Halls- The Music and Art Departments will be collaborating to bring you the annual Haunted Halls. This event will take place in the High School on the 29th. The "Haunted Halls" is a family-friendly Spook Alley with other activities. Please look for more information as to specifics and time.

Staff Spotlight- Did you know that one of our staff members, Mark Walters, has qualified for the National Finals in Pickleball? Congratulations Mr. Walters! Also, Heidi Stirm and Mindy Lincoln each qualified for \$5000 grants for their programs. Great work Mrs. Stirm and Mrs. Lincoln! Share this news about these teachers with your children. Then tell them to find Mr. Forsgren and tell him about it. The first student to tell Mr. Forsgren about these accomplishments of these teachers will receive a free snack from the vending machine!

COVID-19 update – In August, Dr. Adams revised our COVID framework. This framework is available for you to view on our school's website. Our school is currently running in the "Green" category. We are continuing to implement our enhanced cleaning procedures each day and many of the routines that we participated in last year in order to address COVID 19. Our school follows the guidelines set forth by the CDC for identifying close contacts. As defined by the CDC, a close contact is any person that is within 6 feet of an individual who has tested positive for COVID 19 for more than 15 minutes. Teachers have been asked to keep up to date seating charts to help with this process. If your student has been determined to be a close contact, the office will notify you and make the recommendation that your student quarantine. If a student is identified as a close contact, teachers work hard to continue to provide students with instruction through our online platform, Teams, as well as communicating via email. If you do not receive any notification, then your student is not a close contact individual. We are pleased to say that we have had to do very minimal contact tracing so far this year. Thank you for all your help and patience as we continue to make our way through this pandemic.

Fall Sports- Will be wrapping up in October. The Jr. High will be finished about the middle of the month with the High School seasons finishing up the end of October. If you haven't been to a game, please come out and enjoy one. Our teams are successful and entertaining! On the Varsity side, the Volleyball team is currently ranked #2 in the State and the Football Team is in the Top 5. If you can't make it out to a game in person, all home games, High School and Jr. High are broadcast live and recorded on the NHFS Network. If you have questions regarding athletics or how to subscribe to the NHFS Network, please feel free to contact the office. Winter sports will begin in November.

Thank you for all your support!

GO MUSTANGS!

Eric Forsgren
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