



The past two weeks have seen many highlights at MDS. Last Friday, we held a very successful Athletics Carnival about which you will read more within these pages. It was a wonderful day, well supported by the school community and the feedback we have received thus far has been nothing but positive. These days don't 'just happen', but take a great deal of planning and organisation in the lead up. In the report within, Craig Fitzgerald has thanked all those who contributed to making the day a success. On this page I would like to thank and congratulate Craig on his outstanding

organisation of the day; well done Fitz. Congratulations to Vincent for taking out the main prize for the day, and to the individual age group winners and runners up. There was some excellent competition in both track and field, a number of personal bests, and one record broken. Congratulations Maggie! In the next few weeks, training will continue for some athletes as we prepare for both the Secondary and Primary Interschool competitions. Wish us well, and come along to support us if you can.

On Tuesday of this week, our staff were all involved in professional development at MDS while the students had an extra long, long weekend. In a busy school with a number of students who require one to one support and many part time staff, it is often difficult to have everyone together to engage in professional learning, and we truly value the opportunity that a student free day provides. Robbie Hering, our Special Educator from the Kadina Office, spent the day with our classroom support staff and a number of teachers to provide specific training around autism so that we can better support our students. The majority of the teaching staff were engaged in developing and embedding formative assessment strategies for use in their classes. The quality of conversation and learning which took place across the day in both groups made me again reflect just how lucky we are to have such a professional and committed group of educators making up our team. Their new learning will further enable them to support our students to achieve their very best.

Over the past fortnight I have been overwhelmed by the number of primary students who have already reached the first milestone of 25 nights of reading for the year. I cannot stress enough to all parents, of children young and old, the importance of reading. Reading exposes children to different worlds, new ideas, builds vocabulary and knowledge of language, allows them to explore human interactions and gain an

Diary Dates

March

16-20th	SAPSASA Tennis & Cricket
17 th	CANTEEN CLOSED
18 th	Yr 8 & 10 Immunisations
18 th	R-1 Visit to Kindy
19 th	Stage 1/2 Aquatics
20 th	Harmony Day Acknowledgement
23 rd	NAPLAN online practice test
	Stage 1/2 Aquatics
25 th	YP Secondary Interschool Athletics (Moonta)
26 th	YP Primary Interschool (Yorketown)
30 th	Crows Cup
	Stage 1/2 Aquatics

Canteen Closure: Tuesday 17th March

understanding of our world. It is such a valuable skill for learning and life, and also a highly pleasurable lifelong activity. Thank you to all of the parents who invest time to encourage our young people to engage in reading – you are investing in your child's future.

Over the past few weeks the media have engulfed us with news of the Covid19 outbreak and the measures being taken in many countries to contain the spread of the virus. It is clear that those with a compromised immune system, those with pre-existing conditions and the very young and the elderly are most at risk. By understanding what the symptoms are, and using our common sense to limit interactions with others who may be ill, we can assist in limiting the spread of this and other illnesses. Know the signs of Covid19: Fever, dry cough, sore throat, shortness of breath. Not a runny nose, and not the common cold. As the weather turns, we would normally expect to have increases in illness within our school community – indeed I am writing this newsletter from my sick bed. Let's all exercise some common sense by practising good hygiene and keeping ourselves healthy through a good diet, fresh air and plenty of exercise and if children are unwell, please keep them at home so that illness is not spread throughout the school.

Stay well

Ali



2020 Athletics Carnival Report

The 2020 Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 6th March. Australia's finest groundsman, Tom Anderson once again had the Don Snook Oval looking superb and prepared for the athletes to perform at their best. The local day does not run without a variety of help and so a big thank you goes out to the following for the huge amount of effort in organising the day:

- Tom Anderson for all his hard work in marking and mowing the oval. It was in fantastic condition and he spends a huge amount of time to ensure it is in looking great for the athletes.
- Dale Harper once again did a superb job in organising the canteen and we thank her for feeding the athletes and families. She had some great support in the morning and at the oval throughout the day from several parents and students, so thanks to all involved. Thank you also to Kirsty, Jeremy and the Senior School students for organising the coffee stand too.
- The PE staff at MDS including Josh Coombe and Greg Hackett for all their efforts in preparing students for the day and with their help in organising the event. Josh does a great job each year ensuring the primary students have the correct technique and skills to participate in each event and are organised for the relays.
- To Barb and all the primary staff for coordinating some fantastic games and activities for the primary students and preparing the students for the carnival.
- Thanks to Shan and Felicity for collecting the results and doing a fantastic job with the scoring once again.
- DJ Ali B for some fantastic music to keep everyone entertained.
- To all staff, parents, grandparents, families and students who helped on the day with setting up in the morning, timing, measuring, helping in the canteen and packing up equipment at the end of the day. It was great to walk around on Friday and see so many people volunteering their time to support the staff running the events. Your support is greatly appreciated and helps to make the Athletics Carnival a successful and enjoyable day for all involved.
- Well done to all students involved in the events. There was some healthy competition and fine athletic performances throughout the day. Congratulations to the individual age group winners which appear on the following page.

Congratulations Vincent for winning the MDS Athletics Shield and to Yorke for winning the Handicap Shield. Well done to all individual and team winners throughout the day. Based on results from the day, some students will now participate in the Secondary Interschool Athletics Carnival at Moonta Area School on Wednesday 25th March and the Primary Interschool Athletics Carnival at Yorketown Area School on Thursday 26th March. The School Sport SA Secondary Track and Field Championships will then be held on Monday 6th April.

If you have any feedback on the MDS Athletics Carnival or have any new ideas for how we can improve the 2021 version, please email me at Craig.Fitzgerald239@schools.sa.edu.au or [phone the school](#).



Championship Shield Winners, VINCENT



Individual Winners

	Winner (Points)	Runner Up (Points)
10 Year Female	Maggie Walsh (50)	Anais Glazbrook (42)
10 Year Male	Hamish Coombe (52)	Charlie Phillips (31)
11 Year Female	Brigette Redding (42)	Harriet Parsons (36)
11 Year Male	Adam Kilpatrick-Hall (56)	Flynn Gardner (46)
12 Year Female	Gabrielle Hickman (52)	Alice Polkinghorne (25)
12 Year Male	Thomas Phillips (44)	James Cook (38)
13 Year Female	Eleanor Brown (53)	Ashleigh Kilpatrick-Hall (51)
13 Year Male	Freddie Wilson (88)	Oscar Parsons (50)
14 Year Female	Olivia East (70)	Lila Newbold (36)
14 Year Male	Luke Horn (74)	Kalan Modra (33)
15 Year Female	Shineah Goody (62)	Mia Longbottom (50)
15 Year Male	Jacob Hickman (55)	Tie - Harvey Gardner (45) McCoy Harper-Zerna (45)
Open Female	Sophie Longbottom (56)	Isabella Varricchio (44)
Open Male	Max Litster (74)	Jesse Stanley (47)

We also had one new record for the day:

Student	Event	Distance
Maggie Walsh	10yo Discus	19.68m

Overall team results were:

	Handicap Shield (Position)	Overall Score (Position)
Spencer	2049 (3 rd)	1955 (3 rd)
Vincent	2149 (2 nd)	2149 (1 st)
Yorke	2353 (1 st)	2085 (2 nd)

Primary News

Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

Mid-Semester Letter

At the end of Term 1 a mid-semester letter will be sent home indicating how your child is tracking in the areas of English and Maths. Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening and Maths will be reported as a colour to indicate their academic progress to date.

The colour code is as follows:

GREEN Your child is progressing well and is currently performing at Standard or above

ORANGE Your child's learning is currently below Standard and there are concerns about their progress

RED Your child's learning is not yet at Standard and they may fail this subject

(* 'Standard' refers to what is expected in a specific subject at that year level in line with the Australian Curriculum.) Learning Conversations (Parent/Teacher/Student interviews) are upon request by either the teacher or the parent. A more formal semester one report and Learning Conversations will take place near the end of Term 2. Outside of the reporting process teachers are always willing to discuss student progress when issues arise.

Learning Expo

On Wednesday the 8th of April MDS will be having a Learning Expo. All parents and care givers are welcome to attend the afternoon. Learning Expos showcase student learning across the school in each of the curriculum areas. Each class will have work on display with students ready and eager to talk about their what they've learnt. People are encouraged to not only visit your own children's classes, but to see what is happening in the rest of the school too. There will be tech studies projects, maths stations, HASS projects, book reports, art and so much more.

Sports Day

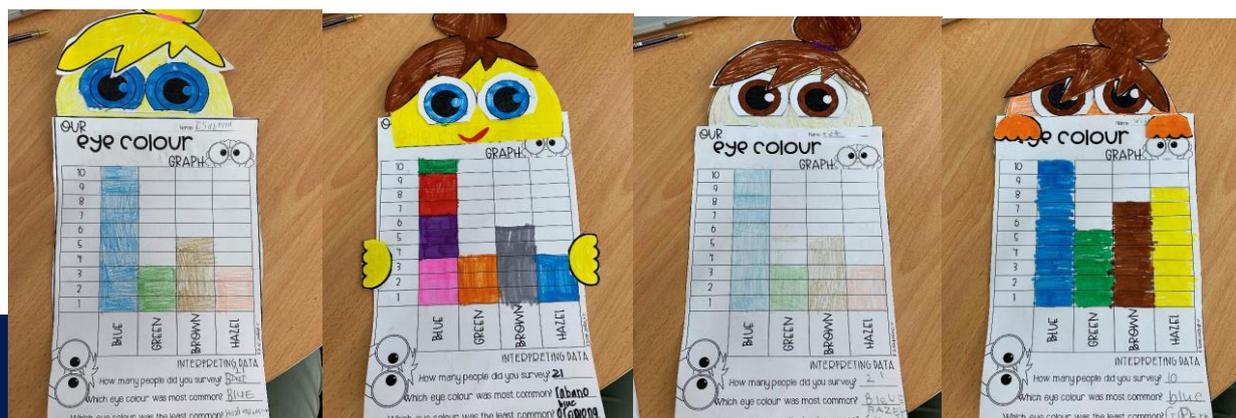
Thank you to all the parents who helped at each station at the MDS Athletics Carnival. In particular the R-2 students had a great day doing their specialised activities and appreciated all the support. Primary Interschool sports day is coming up on Thursday 26th of March and will be held at Yorketown Area School. Students who are in events will have received notification this week.

Reading Logs

There are a group of children in each class who have read 25 nights so far this school year thereby achieving their first milestone. All students are aiming to read 200 nights! Ms Bogle has seen many of the Reading Logs and has given out stickers to celebrate successes. Keep up the outstanding effort!

From the Primary classrooms...

In Maths this term in the Yr 1/2 classroom we have learnt about data. We collected data about eye colour in our class. We used the results to create our graphs.



Middle School News

Greg Hackett, Middle School Coordinator

Hi all,

Middle School Camp

Last week notes went home to gauge support for this year's attempt at middle school camps for term four. It was heartening to see a strong, positive response the following day. Can I remind parents and students to get these notes back to me as soon as possible so that the rest of the planning process can commence in earnest. There is much to do, and I'd like to know where I stand with all of these matters.

Please allow me to remind all families that MDS is able to support families with genuine financial issues to allow students to access this valuable learning opportunity. Please contact me to CONFIDENTIALLY discuss these matters if you would like to know more.

Critical Thinking – a real world issue

As many of you will know, the 8/9 students have this term, been studying topics related to persuasive language and critical thinking as part of their English curriculum. As with many educators, I too see the absolute need of media consumers to have highly developed critical thinking skills and an ability to detect 'fake news' across a wide range of media platforms.

In order for parents to support their children in this, I've reprinted some excerpts from an academic, non-profit, online magazine, **THE CONVERSATION.COM**. My hope is that parents will share and discuss this content with their children to support this 'real world' learning.

Like adults, children use the news to learn about what's happening in the world. But the circulation of misinformation, such as the recent spread of fake news about COVID-19 (the disease caused by coronavirus), blurs our understanding of events and issues.

In 2017, we conducted the first nationally representative survey of how Australian children, aged eight to 16, consume news. We found children as young as eight are interested in news. But there are few news media designed specifically for children in Australia.

The three national news programs for children are News Corporation's Kidsnews, an independent daily news podcast Squiz Kids and the ABC's longstanding Behind the News (BtN), which our research shows is popular with eight to 12 year olds.

Although children's news programs are important, safe and appealing, children are still exposed to other types of news. Our survey found 73% of children regularly consume the same news as their parents or guardians and 49% get news from social media sites, which increases with age.

Our survey also found only one third of young people felt they could distinguish fake from real news.

Here are three things you can do (whether you're a teacher or parent) to help children critically think about the news.

1. Help them identify reliable news sources

In our research children considered a range of items – from breakfast morning television segments to YouTube celebrity videos – as news. To help decide if a source is reliable they can ask the following questions:

is it clear who created this news? It's not possible to trust a source you don't know since you need to be able to query the person or organisation about why and how they created the story

is this a straight presentation of the facts or does it include opinion? A fact is objective information, supported by evidence, and it can be checked to ensure it is right. Opinions are subjective thoughts about an issue nobody can prove are right. If opinions are presented as facts this is misleading

are the people essential to this story included? If a story makes claims about organisations or groups of people, they should be given the opportunity to reply to these claims.

This series of materials from ABC Education can help children distinguish fact from fiction, including how to quickly identify

fake videos and images. You may like to begin with their [fun quiz](#), which highlights how complicated it can be to identify real news from misinformation (for children 12+).

Teaching children to identify trustworthy news sources can help them avoid the effects of misinformation.

2. Help them understand some media may exploit emotions

In our survey, 71% of young Australians said news often or sometimes upset them and 57% said it scared them. It's not all negative though, as 69% said news often or sometimes made them happy or hopeful and 48% said it motivated them to respond to the situation being reported.

Discussing how children feel about news can help them decide which programs are good for them and which they should avoid.

While it's natural for news about major events and issues to evoke emotions, sometimes people can also seek to exploit our emotional responses for their benefit. Research shows catchy, [provocative and sensationalist](#) news headlines are more likely to receive clicks online.

Media can trick you into having an emotional response by:

using sensationalist claims or headlines not supported by facts. These claims may say things like "The wonder herb that stops coronavirus!" or "Coronavirus spreading fast on Sydney trains!"

using emotive or dehumanising language when describing people (such as referring to asylum seekers as "queue jumpers") or their ideas (calling them "idiotic")

using a shocking or altered image (such as one that suggests a celebrity might be pregnant or in a new relationship when she is not).

You can also talk to children about some of the reasons people spread disinformation, such as:

to influence how people will vote

they may be racist, sexist, homophobic or wish to vilify people they do not like

to discredit another person's or group of people's ideas to promote their own

to create clickbait, which is a sensationalist statement designed to encourage people to click on it. This can make money for a website's owner if they include advertising, since they will be paid based on how many people see and click an advertisement.

3. Discuss how news media talk about different people

In our survey, [38% of children said](#) news does not treat people from different race and cultural backgrounds equally and 40% believed news does not treat men and women equally.

Parents and teachers can help children be on the lookout for stories where some people are represented in a denigrating way that does not present their ideas fairly. In these cases it's best to seek out other news sources to consider how they are reporting the story.

For instance, racist information has been [presented as news](#) in relation to coronavirus. Some sites claimed you could get it from eating Chinese food while others promoted the notion of it being a bioweapon made by China or the US.

This kind of misinformation contributes to discrimination. In Australia people of Chinese heritage [have experienced racist attacks](#) while many Australians have now [stopped eating at Chinese](#) restaurants.

Greg Hackett
Middle School Coordinator

Middle School Science

6/7 Science

In Week 5 and 6, both 6/7 Science classes visited the Gum Flat. We are learning about how water is considered a renewable resource because it cycles through the environment. We visited the wells at the Gum Flat with our Aboriginal Community Education Worker, Kay Lawrence, to learn about Aboriginal People's connection with, and valuing of, water and how they managed sources of water. We are currently working on designing some new signs for the area to inform visitors to the area about the history of the wells.

Student comments:

"We got to explore and learn about the Gum Flat." – Eleanor

"I think the excursion was very interesting because I found out a lot about the wells and I found out they had a lot of history behind them. I liked the idea about the signs because I think the locals or tourist should be able to know more about them." – Charlotte

"It was fun and a great way of learning all about the people who lived here before us." – Riley

"I thought that the excursion was good and I think we should do it again". – Thomas

"The Gum Flat was a great experience and it was very interesting when Kay Lawrence talked about what the wells used to be like." – Matilda



Senior School Update

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

Student monitoring within the Senior School

The academic progress of students within the Senior School is monitored through a variety of means; there is the school wide end of semester report, but in addition to this Year 10-12 students receive mid-term interim reports which outline student academic progress and attendance (which will be published this week) and there are student led learning conversations in both semesters for all students. Our Year 12 conversations are Wednesday 18th March and Monday 23rd March, a letter outlining available times and bookings was distributed in week 6 (bookings are made through the school website); it would be fantastic to see as many people as possible. If you haven't received this letter yet, please contact me at school.

Parents are notified via post or email should students fail to meet a due date, submit work which is not reflective of the student's ability or not at the required standard. In addition to this student academic progress is monitored regularly at class room and leadership level. If there are continuing concerns around the student's progress parents are contacted and meetings requested so that as a group (student, parent and staff) we can ensure the best possible result for the student.

From last year all of our senior school interim progress reports were published via the Daymap Parent Portal, with hard copies sent out only at parent request. It is understandable that this may be a new and different process for many however it has been decided that this is our most effective and efficient means of providing this information, as well as being far more environmentally sustainable. In line with this a copy of our Daymap Parent Portal tutorial or "cheat sheet" can also be accessed via the school's website. Our first interim report will ask that all parents please reply via email or Daymap message to acknowledge receipt of the document.

Alternatively, if a parent or student has their own concerns, we welcome contact with teachers. Either ring the school or email the staff member – all email addresses are available via the school website. Make an appointment and they will be happy to discuss your concerns.

Regular monitoring and follow up is directly correlated with improved student learning outcomes and SACE completion rates, which are both Department for Education and MDS priorities.

If you have any Senior School related questions – regarding SACE, VET, year 10 matters or anything really, or if you wish to receive a hard copy of your student's monitoring communications, please call me at school on 88532 346 or send an email to glen.white872@schools.sa.edu.au to arrange this. If you are having access or log in issues please call the school and ask to speak with our Deputy Principal Tasha Bedding.

Glen White – Senior School Coordinator

Minlaton Netball Club –

If Senior or Junior players are intending on playing this season you need to contact Lynda Farrow (Secretary) on 0488 188 526 before the 20th of March. We will only be submitting teams to the SYP Association on the names we have on the 20th March.

Thanks

