



Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Issue 20
28th November, 2019

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If you are reading this before 6pm on Thursday, I hope you are preparing for a fabulous evening of entertainment and celebration tonight. If you don't get around to it before tomorrow or the weekend, I hope you enjoyed the 2019 Presentation Night. Don't those little people get you every time!

I want to take a moment to thank our parents, especially those who take on the responsibility of being 'bus captains' and ring other parents on the bus route to let them know of bus cancellations or issues. Last Wednesday's catastrophic fire danger rating triggered us to put in place Departmental policy to cancel our bus services. Thanks to parents who made calls, and to all who were able to provide transport to allow children

to access school on Wednesday. We had just under half of our school population here last Wednesday, and although conditions were trying, children were engaged in a variety of learning activities, sometimes combined with other classes. There was considerable disquiet in the media about the policy to cease transport services for schools that remain open, particularly before the events further south, and we understand that the Department may be looking to change the current policy for the 2020 school year; however, for now, we comply as required.

As a result of last week's fires, a number of MDS families experienced degrees of trauma as they were immediately impacted through losing property, being evacuated, were involved in fighting the flames or providing support to those who were. For others, perhaps not immediately involved, there is still significant emotional stress as they comprehend the magnitude of the event and realise how lucky we all were that human lives were not lost. The rallying of support has been a true reflection of the wonderful community in which we live. Both immediately after the event and this week, we have received strong support from our Department, with counselling services available to staff and students if required. Recovery from a bushfire event is different for everyone, and I urge anyone who may be struggling, or just need to talk about the experience, to reach out to the many services that are available. We have provided a list of resources at the end of this newsletter which may be useful to you, your family and others in our community. If you believe your young people would benefit from some additional support, please get in touch.

Last Friday, the SRC had already planned a whole school Dress-up Day, the proceeds from which were re-directed to our colleague and friend Terri Thiel, who lost her house and belongings to the fire. I was immensely proud of the effort of our students and staff and some members of the community who provided some very generous donations when Shan went down the street in her 'school uniform'. When questioned about why she was dressed that way, the donations rolled in. We are currently compiling a list of new and second hand goods that people are willing to donate to Terri. We will provide her with this list so that she can

Diary Dates

November

28 th	Presentation Night
28/29 th	Yr7 Transition
30 th	Yr 12 Celebration Dinner

December

2 nd	STUDENT FREE DAY
3 rd – 6 th	Yr 10/11 Work Experience
5 th	MDSC Book Club, Library 7pm
6 th	Middle School Recognition Day
9 th – 13 th	Yr 10/11 Work Experience
11 th	Bounce & Rhyme Library 8.50am
10 th – 13 th	MS Challenge Week
13 th	Last day for Term 4
	Early Dismissal, 1pm



decide what she really needs and then we will organise our team to get it to her once she has organised a place to live. If you feel you are in a position to contribute, please contact Shan at the Front Office. It's difficult to comprehend how one begins again and just what exactly is needed most urgently at a time like this. We send our best wishes to all those who were impacted by the fires that occurred on the YP and once again send our gratitude to everyone who responded so effectively to each situation. Thank you.

In recent weeks we have been working hard to get our timetable and staffing organised for the 2020 school year. Sub-school leaders have been in communication with parents where we have concerns about students being sufficiently prepared to move to the next year level and classes are currently being configured. We are making every effort to reduce the number of students in each class, particularly in the primary and middle school years; this year our numbers in these classes ballooned as new students arrived after the year began and continued to arrive up until this term! We are also trying to provide as much curriculum choice as we can through face to face teaching in our SACE offerings.

Frequently we are confronted with stories of students interacting inappropriately through social media. While this interaction mostly takes place out of school hours, the impact is very often felt here at school. Below we have reprinted some useful information for parents and students about how they can handle these situations. Once again I stress that if students are allowed access to social media sites on their phones there is a responsibility to ensure that they use them positively and that there is sufficient parent oversight of all the profiles your child creates, not just the one they want you to see.

Please remember that on the final day of the school year, we provide a full morning program (with two 'recess' breaks but no formal lunch) and then dismiss students at 1pm. There will be a limited canteen service on the last day of school. Buses will leave MDS at 1.10pm on December 13th. A final 'holiday edition' of the newsletter will come home with student reports.

That's it...see you tonight!

Ali

SOMEONE IS CREATING DRAMA ONLINE

Lies and rumours can spread like wildfire online, and it's not always easy to know the best way to respond. Often when something happens at school or within your friend group, the drama can spill out onto social media or private messenger apps. Whether you're directly involved or not, it's always best to have a cool head and help diffuse the situation if you can.

WHAT TO DO - RESIST THE URGE TO RETALIATE

Resist the urge to retaliate. Rather than continuing the cycle of negativity, try intervening with some positive comments or changing the subject. If you feel like you might be tempted to retaliate, turn off your notifications and leave your phone somewhere for a while, so you can concentrate on other things.

OFFER A NEW PERSPECTIVE

If you see a one-sided mean post about someone you know, rather than scrolling by, you could shake it up and offer a new perspective. It could be as simple as offering a different side to the story or saying something really nice about the person they're targeting. Even offering something completely off topic can help to interrupt the stream of abuse.

'One time a girl in our year posted a photo of some text messages from another girl and tried to paint the situation in a certain way and a lot of other people in the year group were commenting on it saying "wow —can't believe she would say that". I knew the full story and she had only posted her side of it. I commented on the photo saying, "guys there is way more to this, stop posting mean comments". When people realised that the post wasn't the full story, they were sorry, and my friend that I stuck up for was really grateful.'

DM THE PERSON BEING TARGETED

Reach out to the person being targeted and let them know you've got their back. Even if they're not your best mate, sending them a message to make sure they're OK can have a huge impact on another person.

REPORT THE POST

If the post, messages or photos are on a social media service, you should report it. Reporting is anonymous on most

All the way from Denmark!

Amelia Rothe, Yr 10

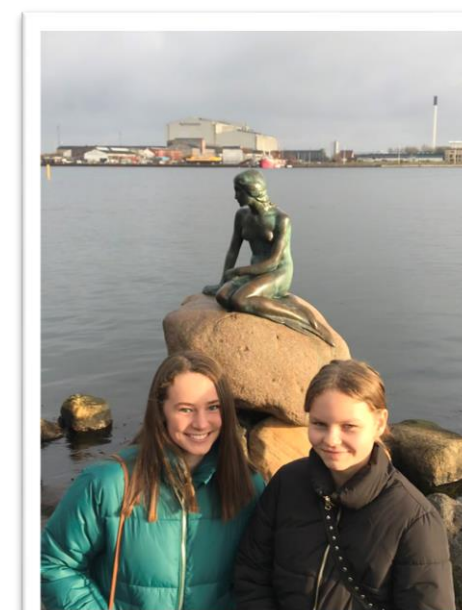
For the entirety of my exchange, I am located in Holbaek, which is about 65km west of Copenhagen. I am currently in the fifth week of my exchange – seven more to go.

My added up travel time from Adelaide to Copenhagen was roughly 20 hours, which resulted in 6 days of jet lag and multiple coffees at 8.00pm! I travelled alone and had to navigate Dubai International Airport on my own, however, I met up with a girl named Emma in Copenhagen. She is from Brisbane, and is doing the same exchange program as me. The weather was quite a shock to the system upon arrival for us Australians, with a 9-degree day considered warm! At the moment, the average temperature is about 7 degrees. It is expected to begin snowing lightly in early-mid December.

Due to this jetlag I had the first week off school. I spent the week shopping, bike riding through the autumn forests and meeting lots of my host family's friends. The language is very hard to understand but I am quickly learning it. I can now count to ten, know simple Danish phrases and can have basic conversations with people.

I have since started school. The high school I attend is referred to as a 'Gymnasium' in Denmark. About 1,300 students attend this school, only in years 1 to 3 (Year 10-12). That is more than the population of Minlaton! The school is enormous, and is set out similar to the American high schools that you see in movies. I am in a class of 18 students (including myself) and it is an all-girls class. My favourite lessons at school are Maths, English and Biology, as they are the only subjects I understand.

All of this may sound quite glitzy and glamorous, but I assure you – exchanges aren't all rainbows and sunshine! Many critical decisions have had to be made (and still are), as well as being able to problem solve in certain situations when not everyone can speak fluent English! So far, I am enjoying myself and this Danish journey, and taking everything as the day comes. I am not too homesick yet, but I am certainly craving some Australian sun.



Uniform Policy - Hats

A reminder that students are required to wear a full brim or bucket hat during Terms 1 and 4. Recently staff have noticed that a number of students have been wearing hats that do not positively reflect our school.

Students with 'dishevelled' or 'destroyed/cut' hats on the top or brim will be treated as though they don't have a hat at all and will be asked to move to solid shade. The school hat forms part of the school uniform. Students should show respect for not only our school but also for their own property. Hats with inappropriate logos such as alcohol or offensive writing on them are also not acceptable.

SAPSASA Update

Josh Coombe

Another successful year in SAPSASA has drawn to a close. Thanks to everyone involved this year, particularly the parents who have spent considerable time transporting students to and from practices and the events.

Congratulations once again to the following MDS students on their selections in representative teams this year:

- Athletics - Freddie Wilson, Olivia East, Ashleigh Kilpatrick-Hall, Nicholas Krieg, Gabrielle Hickman, Harriet Parsons
- Football - Freddie Wilson, Oscar Parsons
- Netball - Eleanor Brown, Lucy Mahar, Natalie Horn
- Cricket - Freddie Wilson, Keely Wildash
- Tennis - Layla Walsh
- Soccer - Will Ryan

The dates have been locked in for the State Carnivals and Championships for 2020. They are below for parents who might be interested and like to plan ahead.

- Cricket and Tennis - Mon 16th March to Thurs 19th March
- Swimming - Fri 27th March
- Cross Country - Thurs 4th June
- Football and Netball - Mon 15th June to Thurs 18th June
- Soccer and Hockey (NYP) - Mon 24th Aug to Thurs 27th Aug
- Athletics - Mon Sept 21st
- Softball (NYP) - Mon 2nd Nov to Thurs 5th Nov

Keep in mind that trials generally will begin seven to eight weeks prior to the Carnival or Championship. For families new to the SAPSASA process, the State Carnivals are for Year 6 and 7 students only. Year 5 students can only be involved if there are low numbers in a particular team. The Championship days (swimming, cross country and athletics) are for ten year olds and up. Anyone can nominate for swimming and cross country but athletics is an invitation-only affair that is based on SYP Sports Day results.

From a school based point of view, we will also be involved next year in the SYP District Basketball Carnival, the Crows Cup 9-a-side girls' football Carnival and the Red Ball Tennis tournament. These dates aren't locked in yet but they will be confirmed in a newsletter early next year.

If you need to know anything regarding SAPSASA, please don't hesitate to contact me at school or via josh.coombe430@schools.sa.edu.au.

Josh Coombe

SYP SAPSASA District Convenor

**Reminder: Monday 2nd December is a
STUDENT FREE DAY!**

Year 10 Outdoor Education – High Ropes Course

Craig Fitzgerald

On Tuesday 19th November, the Year 10 Outdoor Education class travelled to Woodhouse Activity Centre in the Adelaide Hills to participate in the High Ropes Course. Students worked together in small groups participating in rock climbing, high ropes and a 300m flying fox. The day provided a fantastic opportunity for students to overcome their fear of heights, work as a team, develop leadership skills, improve their communication skills and show initiative whilst having some fun in the great outdoors. The excursion went towards the student practical assessment for the subject and was supported by RIF funding. Student comments about the day were:

Lachlan Coombe - I thought that the high ropes course was very enjoyable. We all learnt heaps of new skills that we can use in the future. I liked the flying fox the best!

Elliott Goody - I enjoyed gaining knowledge in many different aspects of the day as well as developing skills. Doing some of the tasks during the day was difficult because some things didn't feel natural. I learnt the proper way to rock climb and how important communication and encouragement is.

Tommy-Lee Osborne - The excursion was great, I enjoyed the high ropes activities in the afternoon as they were the most challenging. The zip lining was enjoyable, and the rock climbing was also fun, but we had the harsh sun straight on us. I would definitely be doing this again.

Harry Wilson - I thought that the day was very good because we got to go to the Adelaide Hills and do some rock-climbing and be among nature and go climbing. The KFC on the way home was an added bonus.

Auston Christianson - The high ropes course was good, and I enjoyed the challenges. It was great that there were no hamstring injuries during the course of the day.

Josh Wilson - The high ropes course was a good experience and we were all pushed out of our comfort zone. The feeling of accomplishing the rock wall and flying on the zip line was unbeatable. I enjoyed the high ropes course, even though it was challenging it was still good for teamwork and building confidence. Overall the day was fun, and the KFC was the cherry on the cake.



Primary News

Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

End-of-Year Class Parties

The primary classes will be having class parties in the final week of the year. The R/1 Yr 1/2 and Yr 2/3 classes will have their parties during the day on Wednesday the 11th of December and the Yr 3/4 and Yr 5 classes will be having a party and disco after school on Tuesday the 10th of December. Notes will be coming home from individual class teachers with further details next week.

200 Nights of Reading

It has been amazing to see the number of students who have completed 200+ nights of reading this year! The more children read the better they get. It's been noted that children who choose to read for enjoyment achieve with their education. Here are the students who have done amazingly well with their reading and have read the 200+ nights in 2019.

From Mrs Hills Class....

This term we have been very busy working on our South African Animal Inquiry project. Students were to research a South African animal of their choice and then complete a series of different tasks on the selected animal. Students were challenged to use a wide variety of skills for this project and took great pride in their finished products. Below are some examples of our work.



Super Readers

200 Nights!

R/1 Coe

Isabella Edwards
 Tida Hoskin
 Toby Jansons
 Deanna Jones
 Bella Weir
 Celeste Redding
 Alena Voigt
 Dusty Redding
 Lara Cook
 Lincon Agnew
 Ella Hardy

1/2 Cox

Rubee Cock-Lehmann

2/3 Hocking

Alexander Redding
 Finn Glazbrook
 Nicholas Preedy

4/5 Hills

Anais Glazbrook
 Hamish Coombe
 Mackenzie White
 Maggie Walsh
 Olivia Cook
 Isobel Cook
 Adam Kilpatrick-Hall
 Brigitte Redding
 Harriet Parsons
 Kitty Wilson
 Lara Jansons

Year 5 Agnew

Daniel McIntosh
 Elijah Rothe
 Emmie Sullivan
 James Cook
 Lauren McIntosh

Mrs Hills Yr 3/4 Class

South African Animal Project



Middle School Report

Greg Hackett, Middle School Coordinator

Transition

This week sees us embark on our transition processes as year 9 students begin to explore the challenges of year 10, and we welcome some new students to MDS for year 8 in 2020. Later, we will also have some time for year 5 students to investigate life in the middle school.

The Year 7-8 transition will be on this Thursday and Friday, which means that there will be an alternative timetable and activities for our current year 7s while the rest of the MS classes adjust around them. We hope all goes well for the week and our new students settle in effectively.

2020 School Camp

After the dramas of the 2019 camp that didn't happen, I have tentatively booked the MS into a camp for around this time next year. At the moment I can reveal:

- Week 8 of term 4 2020
- 3 day/2 night stay at Illawonga Camp
- Cost aiming to be under \$200 per student (of course this depends on final numbers)
- 6/7 and 8/9 will camp separately

We are again aiming for a high participation rate, in order to balance all costs associated with this camp. Full details of this camp will be revealed in early 2020.

Recognition reward day

Soon a group of our MS cohort will receive a letter inviting them to our Recognition Reward Day. On this day, students who have been recognised by teachers as striving for excellence, been involved in co-curricular activities or shown positive school citizenship will be rewarded with an excursion. I won't spoil the news here, but I give a collective 'well done' to those who have earned a spot on the bus through their endeavour and hard work. It is great to see that we have a significant number of students on this list.

Co-curricular participation

Last week, the 8/9 students were involved in assisting Ms Hocking's 2/3 class with some of their 'book-making' drafting. It was extremely exciting and fulfilling to see the way in which each of the older students approached this activity; assisting the 2/3s to draft their work and develop their narrative style. The learning conversations and 'joy' amongst the group was palpable and all students gained significantly from the experience. Well done to the whole group to take on this challenge and meeting it so successfully. This certainly bodes well for their futures and demonstrates what a great community of learners we have here at MDS.



Challenge Week

In Week 9, students will again undertake their few days of challenges – SRC and house leaders are developing some of their own challenges to take on the other houses. We also have a few new surprises for week, which should be fun. Social development, teamwork, communication, problem solving and rising to the challenge are the themes for the

week's learning.

Parent Contact

If you have specific matters for subject or Care Group teachers, please contact them directly. As you know, I am always more than happy to discuss matters with parents and welcome any questions concerns or feedback. Contact details are via the school website.

Kind Regards, Greg Hackett - Coordinator – Middle School

Senior School Update

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

Friday 29th November marks the end of our school based Senior School programs for 2019. Some students who have been less than successful in some subject areas this year will be re-joining us in weeks 8 and 9 to prepare themselves for their 2020 schooling by completing tasks and subjects to a passing standard in order to be promoted into the next year level. For the next two weeks most students are busy on various work placements across the state. Therefore this will be the final Senior School Report for the year.

It has been an incredibly busy year in the Senior School, with some significant highlights. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students, parents and community members for their support this year. I would also like to make a pretty heartfelt thanks to Senior School staff; they are an incredible team who work tirelessly to ensure our kids get the best opportunities to succeed. So to Ali, Tash, David, Craig, Stacey, Greg, Anne, Sam, Nick, Bron, Sarah, Shania, Kate, Jenny and Carol thanks for all your efforts this year, you have all done a marvellous job.

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator


Library News

Rick Cook

On Friday 15th of November we hosted children's author Beverley McWilliams at our library for 3 sessions with our Reception to year 9 students. Beverley recently published her first book 'Born to Fly' which tells the Story of Minlaton's own local hero Harry Butler. The book was released to coincide with the recent centenary celebrations around the Minlaton area. Our students impressed Bev with their extensive knowledge of all things Harry Butler, while she impressed and inspired them with insight into the process of developing an idea into a story and getting it published. It was a special opportunity, to have an author speak on a book that is so relevant to our community and for our students. It has been amazing to have the story of Harry immortalised in a format that they and future generations can understand. This Author visit was funded through Rural and Isolated Funding (RIF).



Every day at the moment we are giving away a brand new book to a randomly selected student who currently has no overdue library items. This has been made possible through the reward points accrued by the school through our use of Scholastic Book Club. Well done to all of those students who have won so far and don't forget to return your Library books on time so that you can be in the running to win.

GET YOUR GIRL SQUAD TOGETHER

Girls Kicking Goals!

SANFL are excited to announce that Girls Kicking Goals is back for the January School Holidays.

Whether you are new to the game or have played for years lace up your boots and come on down to our GIRLS ONLY clinic!

Age: 8-14 year olds **Time:** 8am-12pm
Location: West Adelaide Football Club (57 Milner Road, Richmond)
Date: Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd of January
Cost: One day \$50 | Two Days \$90
Showbag: Every participant will receive a showbag

REGISTER NOW

Minlaton Christmas Parade Friday 20th December

RED DEVIL CHALLENGE

The Business Group would like to let families know that we are not having the Runway this year but are doing a challenge for children. There are 19 businesses on board for this so the street will be filled with children.

START AND FINISH IS AT THE POST OFFICE DRIVEWAY

Children will collect a board with participating businesses written on it. Children must go to the businesses window and answer the question that is asked. Once they have been to all/most businesses they are to go back to the Post Office and collect their Goodie Bag. There are some great things in the bag, we hope you enjoy. Have fun.



MINLATON

and DISTRICT BUSINESS GROUP present the 2019

Christmas PAGEANT and CAROLS

MAIN STREET • FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER

5.30pm Red Devil Challenge starts in the Post Office Driveway

Barbeque at the Rest Centre

6.15pm Carols by Eternity Chapel – opposite Hotel

7pm all vehicles assemble for parade at the town oval

7.15 walkers, children, pushbikes all Assemble behind the Catholic Church

7.30pm **PARADE STARTS**

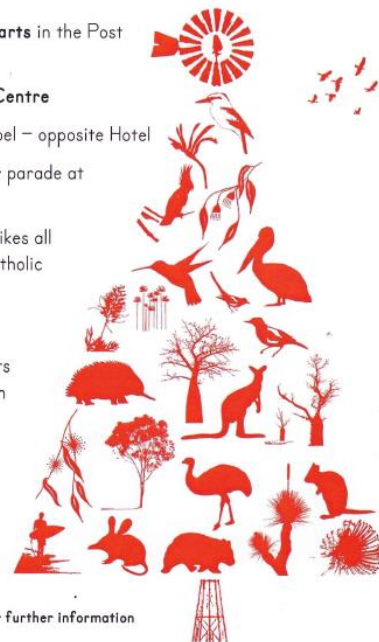
7.45pm Father Christmas greets children in the plantation

8pm raffle drawn / lights winners announced

8.15pm Carols resume

9.30pm street reopens

*phone Janet King on 0408 532 164 for further information



Support Services

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/DisastersAndMentalHealthSupport

For mental health emergencies:

Ph 131465 (available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

For non-urgent mental health concerns:

Country & Outback Health PH(08) 85658500

www.cobh.com.au

Health Direct: PH1800022222

www.healthdirect.gov.au

Lifeline: PH131114

www.lifeline.org.au

Regional Access Program PH1300032186

www.saregionalaccess.org.au

Beyond Blue: PH1300224636

www.beyondblue.org.au

Mensline: PH 1300789978

www.mensline.org.au