



It's fair to say that winter is well and truly upon us, and nothing brings that realisation closer to home than the paper towel and orange marker cones on the gym floor to sop up the water from the leaks in the roof! While our situation has been 'logged' for a number of years, we are still waiting for any action in relation to replacing the roof structure. Individual attempts to seal leaking areas, only create further leaks in other points of weakness. It is hoped that we will have sufficient funds to upgrade the gym roof through our own resources in coming years, but until then, our students have additional agility and problem solving training as they navigate the space!

Last week's long weekend was a very welcome break this term and may have been the circuit breaker that some families needed to curb the onslaught of colds and flu that have been making the rounds. While we still have a trickle of students who are reporting with illness during the day, necessitating a phone call home, there are fewer than in past weeks. With three weeks of term to go, I hope that everyone is taking care of themselves and observing good hygiene through washing hands and covering mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing. It would be good to get to the end of term without too much more illness.

On Friday May 31st, the school was treated to some 'wild' delights as we prepared a sausage sizzle lunch in recognition of Reconciliation Week. Our thanks to Ellen for organising the event, which saw students experiment with kangaroo and wild boar sausages, damper and a range of bush jams and relishes. Thanks also to the year 12 students and a number of staff who helped with the major task of cooking the sausages to feed the school. A number of classes were involved in a range of learning activities about Reconciliation throughout the week, acknowledging the long history of the aboriginal culture and how we can better work together to provide a positive future for our children, our society and our environment.

On Tuesday our staff participated in a range of professional learning activities which focused on our site improvement goals; improvement in reading in junior primary, increasing reading comprehension in the middle school, and growing the number of students in the higher bands in numeracy. We shared practical strategies to implement in classes, and all teachers added something new to their 'toolbox' to

Diary Dates

June

- 17th – 21st SAPSASA Football/ Netball
- 18th Governing Council 7.30pm
- 24th Semester 2 Timetable commences
- 24th – 26th Middle School Alternative Learning Week
- 26th Bounce & Rhyme, Library 8.50am
- 27th Book Club, Library 7.30pm

July

- 3rd Primary Assembly 2.10pm
- 5th End Term 2, Early Dismissal 2pm

improve student outcomes. We all appreciated the opportunity to spend a full day in rich learning conversations, having time to explore, interrogate and improve our practice.

In recent weeks we have seen a range of 'uniform' interpretations here at MDS which are not consistent with our uniform policy. I would ask for support of parents in ensuring that students are correctly attired in school uniform each day. We are seeing a range of jumpers/windcheaters which are not school tops, and leggings and jeans are also sneaking in to vogue – none of these are uniform items and should not be worn at school. If there is a genuine reason for a student not wearing correct uniform on a particular day, please send a note to the care group teacher advising the reason. Our good name in the community is supported when our students wear their uniform with pride.

Thank you to parents who have responded to my letter in Week 6 re student attendance. Sometimes it's easy to lose track of just how many days students have had away from school, so we make contact at intervals throughout the year to flag extended or frequent absences so that you don't get a shock when you read the total on the school report. If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please make contact either with the care group teacher, sub school leader or myself.

Next week is the final week of Semester one. The Semester two timetable begins on Monday June 24th. One of the biggest changes to our weekly schedule will be to have our single lesson day on a Tuesday for the remainder of the year. Traditionally, Wednesday has been our single lesson day to allow students undertaking SBAs to go to 'work' on Wednesday and not miss out on double lessons. In more recent years, there has been far greater flexibility required in releasing students on different days of the week, so it is no longer imperative that Wednesday is the day. Moving single lessons to Tuesday will allow more staff to attend staff meetings, as all teachers are rostered to be here on a Tuesday.

Stop Press: The Book Covering Quest is about to ramp up yet again! We are currently ordering another set of books to support the Read Write Inc program in the junior years and will be calling for support to get these texts covered so that they can go home for nightly reading. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and website and respond to the call when it goes out. Thank you in anticipation!

Ali

Open Basketball Carnival

Craig Fitzgerald

On Wednesday 29th May, 16 students represented Minlaton in the Yorke Peninsula Open Basketball Zone Carnival. The matches were held at the Minlaton Basketball Stadium against other secondary schools on Yorke Peninsula.

Boys results:

Minlaton defeated Yorketown 1 (36-23)

Minlaton lost to Moonta (17-46)

Minlaton defeated YAS 2 (32-25)

Girls results:

Minlaton 1 lost to Minlaton 2 (30-31)

Minlaton 1 defeated YAS (44-23)

Minlaton 2 defeated YAS (22-17)

The boys team finished in 3rd position overall and the girls ended the day with Minlaton 1 in 1st position and Minlaton 2 in 2nd position. Moonta won the boys competition.

The day is used as selection for the Yorke Peninsula Zone team to participate in the School Sport SA Knockout Competition in Term 3. Students will be notified soon if they have been successful with selection for the YP team. Thanks to Charli McIntosh-Whitehouse, Jesse Stanley, Bronwyn Farrow and Georgina Farrow who umpired matches throughout the day. A big thanks to Lynda Farrow for her support with scoring the Minlaton matches.



8/9 Girls Netball Carnival

On Thursday 6th June, a group of Year 8/9 girls travelled to Maitland to participate in the 8/9 Zone Netball Carnival. The team were excited for the opportunity to play against the other schools on YP, especially under the guidance of super coach Shan Longbottom. The girls combined well as a team and improved as the day went on and they all represented MDS with pride. Results for the day were:

MDS lost to Central Yorke (11-16)

MDS lost to KMS 2 (17-22)

MDS defeated Maitland Lutheran 1 (17-12)

MDS lost to KMS 1 (21-11)

MDS defeated KMS 3 (25-10)

Central Yorke School were the overall winners and remained undefeated for their matches. Thanks to Nat Blyth and Madi Boshier who helped umpire the games.

Percussion Workshop

William Pointon, Yr 8 Student

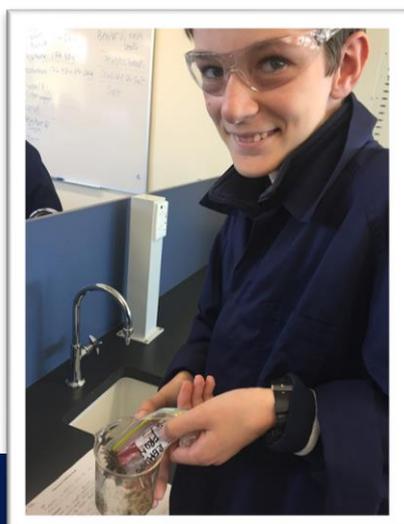
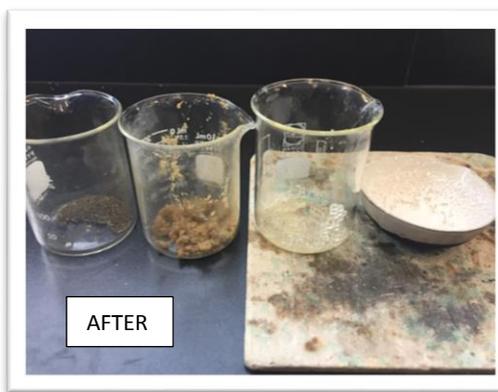


On the 11th of June I travelled to Nuriootpa High School for a percussion workshop with Amanda Grigg, Head of Brass and Percussion for the ASO (Adelaide Symphony Orchestra). There were about a dozen students, some of whom I already knew. We played two songs, one of them she wrote herself specifically for the workshop and the other was called 'Hot, Hot, Hot'. Both were really good challenges and were enjoyable to play. For the first song I played strap mid tom which was interesting because I'd never played one with a strap before. For the second piece I played mallets on the marimba with another student who played two octaves lower than I did so I was playing really high. It was a good experience with having a face to face lesson with my online video call drum teacher.

Science

Kate Sheppard

In Science, we are learning about mixtures and how to separate them. The techniques we are learning about are used in separating plasma and red blood cells from blood, separating recycling into different materials, and separating pure water from salt water. Last week, we were challenged to separate a mixture of sand, salt, iron filings, and plastic beads. We used magnetism, sieving, floatation, filtration, and crystallisation to separate this mixture. We developed our laboratory skills and discovered some of the unavoidable errors that can happen during an experiment. This week, we will be analysing our results for patterns and our method for areas for improvement.



Middle School News

David Buckley, Middle School Coordinator

Hi all,

Mr Buckley reporting in. Term 2 has almost finished and I would like to share my appreciation of all the help I have received from staff and students while I have been taking over from Greg Hackett as he has been on long service leave for this term. Previously I have taught in many different schools around the state and I can now honestly say that MDS has been a terrific place to work. I have had the opportunity to learn new skills, teach different subjects and year levels, and improve my 'scum ball' skills with the year 11's and 12's at lunchtime. Students and staff at MDS have a wonderful demeanour, with a great combination of politeness, fun and a good work ethic.

With semester 1 coming to a close please be aware that as of Monday week 9 there will be a new timetable for semester 2. Alternative Learning Week activities will be taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of week 9. These activities will include tree planting at Gum Flat, design and technology tasks, STEM tasks and house orientated tasks such as banner making. In week 10, the new semester gears-up with students commencing their Personal Interest subjects, completing their term 2 personal evaluation/reflection sheets and setting some new goals for term 3. The tree planting at Gum Flat will take place on Wednesday 27th of June. Students will be planting trees and removing weeds in house groups. Students will need to bring a change of gardening/outdoor clothes for this task.

Thanks again to all who have made my short time at MDS a very enjoyable one. You will see me in terms 3 and 4 in my regular PRT role, relieving in all year levels and subjects.

Sincerely,

David Buckley

Coordinator – Middle School

Gum Flat Project

In Alternative Learning (week 9) MDS house groups will continue with the work previously done at Gum Flat. Thanks to Letitia Dahl-helm (Environment Officer, Yorke Peninsula Council) for all the work she has put in to make this long term project viable.

Minlaton District School (MDS) have been working to remove the Swamp Oak trees, a declared weed in South Australia, and replant the area with native River Red Gums and indigenous vegetation. Removing the Swamp Oak weeds will allow for the restoration of some of the native vegetation that existed at the time of original European settlement of the area. It is hoped that it will also improve the salinity; as well as possibly provide a source of original native foods.

The plan for the area, which has support from the Minlaton and District Progress Association, is to utilise community resources to restore and revegetate the area creating a communal outdoor space for the Minlaton community. Ultimately, there will be signage to identify the heritage of the area and acknowledgement of the Narangga people who are the original keepers of the area. Getting the children and families involved at this early stage will hopefully develop a sense of ownership and responsibility for the area as they pass through the different levels of schooling and in turn, share this with their families. We are proud to be involved in this long term project which will see a wonderful resource for the whole community long into the future.

Senior School Update

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

Week 7 means that there is only one more week left in Semester 1, and only a few more weeks until a well-earned break for our senior students (and staff and parents!). Year 12 Research Project students will have completely finished their course by the time this newsletter goes out. Well done to all. It is pertinent to remind student and parents that any marks which have been awarded to RP students are at present only school assessed grades; whilst we go through a rigorous intra-school moderation process, these marks only represent 70% of the total subject grade and are yet to be confirmed by the SACE Board's final central moderation process.

Year 10 and 11 students are reminded that the end of semester is 3pm Friday 21st of June and that no work will be accepted after that. It will certainly be a super busy time for these students, with new timetables and new subjects beginning in Week 9. Please note; no subject changes will occur after the start of the new semester.

Work Experience

If you are keen to do some forward planning, the next round of work experience for Year 10 and 11 students will be in the last 2 weeks of the year. The dates are from the 2nd December to 6th December and from the 9th December to 13th December. All Year 10 and 11 students **must complete at least one week of work placement during this period**, and are welcome to complete 2 weeks. Year 9 students who are over the age of 15 may also wish to undertake work experience in the second week.

A hearty well done to the Year 10 students who have organised a placement for week 9 of this term! Students who were unable to arrange a placement will be engaged here at school in an alternative program through week 9 which will involve career education and a variety of projects around the school.

Careers Trip 2019

Reminder - Week 5 of Term 3 (19-23 August) is the Year 10 Careers and Civics Trip. More information, including an information session early in Term 3 will follow, but parents and students may wish to begin sorting student accommodation.

Students are to use Monday as a travel/familiarisation day, with the careers program beginning on Tuesday morning. Students are expected to travel to Adelaide via their own means, but they will return to Minlaton together on a school chartered bus.

Once again if you have any questions about Senior School related matters, don't hesitate to call me here at school or send an email to glen.white872@schools.sa.edu.au