



Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Issue 14
20th August 2020

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Diary Dates

August	18 th	Governing Council Meeting, 7.30pm
	24 th – 27 th	SAPSASA Soccer/Hockey
	26 th	Kindy visit to R/1 Class
	27 th	Sammy D Foundation Violence Prevention presentation
	31 st	Yr 11 & 12 Subject Counselling
September	2 nd	Yr 10 Subject Counselling
	7-9 th	SAPSASA Football/Netball
	8 th	Yr 8 Immunisations

This Friday marks the mid-way point of term, and while the weather may not feel like it, spring is just around the corner. Let's hope that some sunshine and blue skies will soon be upon us and we can get out into the great outdoors again without at least 5 layers!

There are some important items in this week's newsletter which I need to draw your attention to. Each year, the Department asks students in years 4 through the 12 to participate in a Wellbeing and Engagement survey. Usually this occurs early each year, around March or April. Given the situation earlier in the year, the survey was postponed, but we are now being asked to administer it over the course of Weeks 7 – 9 this term. This year like no other, having a gauge on the wellbeing and thinking of our young people is of vital importance as we navigate our way through a global pandemic. Please read the explanatory letter later in the newsletter and get in touch if you do NOT want your child/ren to participate.

In week 10 of this term we will once again be holding our Colour Fun Run. While we embark on the fun run as a fundraising exercise, the FUN part is the focus and we encourage whole school involvement in this colourfully messy event. Thursday September 24th has been earmarked as the day and of course we will conduct the event in an appropriately 'Covid-safe' manner. If your family have the capacity to raise funds for the school through participation in the fun run, we would appreciate you logging in to the School Fun Run website to register for our event. Details once again can be found later in this newsletter.

Our canteen continues to try to provide nutritious, cost effective lunches and snacks for our school population and Dale has certainly been very creative in providing interesting options for us all. As we approach the end of winter Dale's thoughts are turning to the summer canteen menu and we are seeking your input so that we can shape the menu to meet our school needs. I would really appreciate you accessing the survey via this link to provide us with feedback and direction.

Canteen Survey: <https://forms.gle/5oYp3oZsHQC�3SoW6> Thank you - your support is appreciated.

Next week, beginning Monday August 24th is SSO Recognition Week in South Australia. At MDS we have 22 wonderful people who fulfil myriad roles to support our school and our students – without them, teachers and students would find school extremely difficult! I want to acknowledge all of our support staff who are integral to our ability to achieve excellent outcomes for our students and school community. While we will duly celebrate our SSO staff next week with some little surprises, can I encourage you all to make a point of thanking an SSO when you see them at drop off, down the Main Street, or out and about. Thank you Tom, Ellen, Kristy, Stacey, Jeremy, Candy, Felicity, Shan, Kerry, Aaron, Megan, Nerida, Beth, Kelly, Shania, Hannah, Jodie, Terri, Zoe, Carol, Dale, Kirsty – you are certainly a special bunch and we really appreciate all that you do for us here at MDS. Happy SSO Week!

In each newsletter I like to acknowledge our Primary readers for their daily reading recording. We encourage all our students to read every day not only to improve their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills, but also to establish a life-long habit that can bring them great pleasure into the future. There's nothing better than escaping into another world through a good book on a cold winter's

afternoon! This week I'm delighted to recognise the first two students to have reached the 200 club this year; congratulations Jimmy and Archie – what an outstanding effort and well deserving of not one, but two crocodiles (cleverly disguised as pencils). Congratulations also to Lexi and Brayden who are our newest members of the 100 club.

Currently students who will be in the Senior School in 2021 are looking at subject options and future pathways so that we can begin to plan in earnest for next year. In Week 7 there will be opportunity for parents to engage in conversations with staff about learning options for next year and I urge parents of year 9, 10 and 11 students to read Glen's senior school report closely to ensure you don't miss important dates for action.

Finally, a safety reminder – when travelling toward the school car park from either direction drivers are required to slow down to 25km per hour if a young person is walking on the side of the road, and if there is someone between the flags at the crossing, all vehicles must stop behind the white lines and allow pedestrians to cross. When inside the car park, please observe the directional arrows and keep your eye out for children entering and exiting vehicles; they can become invisible very quickly. On occasion we are fortunate to have our local police on hand to monitor speeds and vehicle movements which we very much welcome. We want everyone, pedestrians and drivers, to get to school safely.

Ali

YP SAPSASA Golf Qualifying

This week, five MDS students competed in the YP SAPSASA golf qualifying event at Maitland Golf Club. In gelid conditions, the boys played nine modified holes (teeing off from 150m out from the pin) in an eighteen-person strong field. Noah McDonnell was the best of our bunch, carding a fine 42 off the stick. Hamish Coombe had 47, Nicholas Krieg 56, Mitchell Hamilton 67 and George Bennett 70. Based on their scores, Noah and Hamish have been successful in qualifying for the SAPSASA two day state event at the Adelaide Shores golf complex in November.

Josh Coombe
SAPSASA co-ordinator



Library News

Rick Cook, Teacher/Librarian

The Premier's Reading Challenge finishes on Friday September 4th (Week 7) so there are only two weeks to go. We have had a flurry of completed forms returned in the last few weeks and students are loving the chance to create their 'strange creature' to fit with this year's Book Week theme 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'.

Book Week has been shifted to Week 2 Term 4 (beginning Monday Oct 19) due to the COVID situation. We will hopefully run some activities around this but will need to be mindful of restrictions that may change significantly before then! That said, I would like to give families as much notice as possible that if we do go ahead with our dress up day, the theme will be 'Strange and Curious Creatures' - there's a fair bit of scope there but anything goes really. As I have said we can't be certain that this will go ahead but start thinking costumes in case it does.

Currently we are juggling our roles of School Library and Community Library while trying to limit the crossover between each of these groups in order to safeguard all members of our community. This has led to limited community opening times and we apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused. The library is currently open to the community:

Mon: 2:30pm-4:30pm Tues: 1:30pm-3:30pm Wed: 2:30pm-4:30pm Thurs: 1:30pm-6:00pm Fri: 2:30pm-4:30pm

Parents are more than welcome to bring their children in after school as they are also counted as community members after School hours. Please adhere to social distancing, sanitisation measures and don't forget to sign in.

Keep turning pages everyone!

Primary News

Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

Read Write Inc

The students participating in the Read Write Inc program have recently been tested and new groups have been allocated for the rest of the term. The children have been making progress in both reading and comprehension. Most of the students are reading each night and/or being read to by parents, and their reading abilities have seen tremendous development. As students leave the Read Write Inc program, they have the building blocks to continue on to become confident, independent readers. The staff appreciate everything that parents are doing to support their children in reading at home.

Maths Snapshot

Throughout each of the primary classes there have been a lot of students thinking creatively whilst solving numeracy problems. In the R/1 class the children have been very excited working at Smartie subtraction. What delicious activity! Meanwhile in the Yr 1/2 class the children have been learning how to read clocks by drawing them in chalk on the asphalt and then becoming the hands of the clock to show time. The brilliant little mathematicians in the Yr 2/3 class have been doing jumping strategies to help with mental computations (see photo). In the Yr 3/4 class the children were using catalogues to form budgets. The students in the Yr 4/5 class have designed a flag for a fictitious country that needed to be $\frac{1}{4}$ blue, $\frac{1}{8}$ green, $\frac{3}{8}$ red and $\frac{1}{4}$ yellow. This activity demonstrated their understanding of fractions of unlike denominators that made up to a whole.

Ms Reynolds, Yr 2/3 class



The Year 2/3s have just completed a PE unit on hockey. It involved a number of skills sessions by their teacher and hockey coach Ms. Reynolds. There's lots of talent amongst this group. Hopefully a few will sign up to the Minlaton Hockey Club in the future!

In year 2 and 3 students are introduced to a number of strategies to solve equations. We've been practising using chunking, jumping on a number line and column addition and subtraction. There's been obvious improvement in their skills and plenty of smiles when problems are solved quickly.



Middle School Update

Greg Hackett, Middle School Coordinator

Hi all,

Middle School Camp Update

In an update on camps last term, I was not able to confirm or deny that the MS camps would go ahead. I can now confirm that unless there is a significant change to our present COVID-19 status, our camps WILL PROCEED as planned.

This now means we will have to go through the process of confirming attendance and seeking deposits for the camp costs. This week a letter will go home seeking information from parents. Please read carefully and return these to school as soon as possible.

Middle school Student-led Learning Conversations

Later this term we'll see the return of our student-led learning conversations. Parents will be able to book via the school webpage into the fifteen minute slots on **Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th September from 3:15pm – 6:45pm**. For those unfamiliar with the format for the conversations, we ask that students lead the conversation firstly by discussing their degree of success with their goal-setting then secondly, any other specific learning issues. If there are other specific matters parents wish to discuss with teachers, please arrange a separate, mutually convenient time to do so.

We look forward to meeting more parents through these meetings and having some valuable conversations about each student's progress.

MS Snapshots

Linked to this article is some further photographic evidence of some of the learning experiences of our MS students in recent weeks.

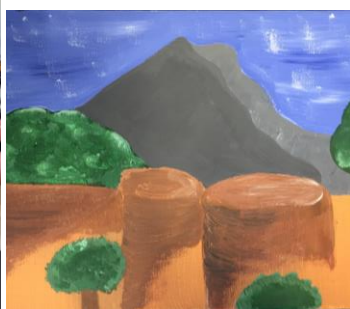
Parent Contact

I am always more than happy to discuss matters with parents and welcome any questions, concerns or feedback. Please contact me via the school to arrange a meeting or email me via the addresses provided on the school website.

Here's to another productive and enjoyable term!

Kind Regards,

Greg Hackett
Coordinator – Middle School



Senior School Update

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

As with our last report, things are traveling along at a rate of knots within the senior school, with all students heavily engaged in their current curriculum offerings. Subject counselling meetings with our 2021 Year 12s have taken place last week and with our 2021 Year 11s this week. With future directions in mind, it would be worthwhile for students and parents to check a number of innovative offerings available within our wider partnership – Stage 1 & 2 Business Innovation (Shark Tank eSchool) at Ardrossan and Yorketown Area Schools, Certificate II in Engineering Pathways at Ardrossan Area School, the Central Yorke Football Academy (Stage 1 & 2 Cross Disciplinary Studies) at Central Yorke School, Certificate II Automotive at Yorketown Area School and the SA Health Program encompassing Certificate III in Individual Support (Home, Community, Ageing and Disability) being offered across the partnership. Further details of these courses will be provided shortly, however if students or parents wish to discuss these, please contact me at school.

Below are reminders of the upcoming dates for interviews, course counselling sessions and work experience,

Interviews and Course Counselling

Some dates to be aware of in the upcoming term:

- Interviews with individual subject teachers are available upon request.
- Subject Selection Handbooks are available online.
- Interim Reporting will occur this week.
- Year 8/9 forum (for future planning and understanding of subject selection processes) Monday of week 7.
- Parent subject selection evenings will occur in Week 7 of Term 3.

Work Experience

After the cancellation of Work Experience in the first semester we are hopeful that students will be able to participate in this valuable learning experience at the end of Term 4 should Covid restrictions allow. Work Experience can be undertaken in Weeks 8 and 9 of Term 4; November 30 – December 4 and December 7 – 11. Further information and confirmation of the status of Work Experience will be forthcoming, however it would be useful to begin conversations and planning now in the likelihood that it goes ahead.

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

Glen White

Senior School Coordinator



Dental Assistant Traineeships

SA Dental Service is offering approximately 30 Dental Assistant Traineeship positions at clinics across the state. The 12-month Traineeship contract includes on the job training and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting while earning \$17,371 - \$36,099 a year.

If you are 17 – 24 years of age (or up to 30 years if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) and have finished year 11, you may qualify for a Traineeship.

Applications open 28/08/2020 – 18/09/2020 for the February 2021 intake.

For more information, visit: www.sahealthcareers.com.au
(Search Job Number: 726091 at this website from 28 August – 18 September to apply.)



Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Wellbeing and Engagement Collection

Students in our school have been invited to take part in a survey being conducted in Term 3 2020. This letter provides key information about the survey.

In Term 1 2020, some schools participated in the Wellbeing and Engagement Collection. However, not all students were able to participate in or complete the survey due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our school will participate in the Term 3 Wellbeing and Engagement Collection which will be open during Weeks 7 to 9 (Monday 31 August to Friday 18 September 2020).

Purpose of the collection

Young people's sense of wellbeing is an important part of how they learn at school. The purpose of the survey is to seek students' views about their wellbeing and their engagement with school. Students in year levels 4 to 12 across the State will be invited to participate in the *Wellbeing and Engagement Collection*. The information collected will help the education system and broader community to support young people's health and wellbeing.

What is the survey about?

The survey asks students about their social and emotional wellbeing; school relationships and engagement and learning in school; and physical health and wellbeing and after school activities. Students' answers will be kept confidential – no one (including school staff) will use the results to identify individual students.

What is involved in project participation?

Teachers will arrange for students to undertake the survey during class time. Students will be asked if they would like to participate and will be free to withdraw at any time. **If you do not want your child to participate, please contact the school as soon as possible after receiving this letter.**

Will students' information be kept confidential?

The department takes measures to ensure students' personal information and their identities remain anonymous when participating in the survey.

Participating schools with fewer than 5 students undertaking the survey will not receive a school report in order to protect the confidentiality of students.

What will happen if a student is distressed during or after the survey?

Whilst the survey questions are not expected to distress students, the survey includes questions that ask about topics such as students' happiness and experiences of being bullied. Teachers will inform students that:

- if they find the survey uncomfortable or distressing, they should leave the survey screen immediately
- that it is not compulsory to take part in the survey as a whole, and
- students may also skip individual survey questions if they wish.

Students who may want to speak to an adult about concerns or issues and will be supported to do so.

Where can I get more information?

Further information on the Wellbeing and Engagement Collection can be found at www.education.sa.gov.au (search:wec) or can be collected from the school. For questions or concerns, or to view the questions, please email Education.WECSA@sa.gov.au.

Sincerely

Ali Bogle, Principal



1800 FUN RUN (386 786) ☎
info@schoolfundraising.com.au ✉
schoolfundraising.com.au 🌐

The Fundraising Group (Australia) Pty Ltd
ABN 44 090 756 488

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We will be holding the *School Fun Run's Crazy Colour Day* as a major fundraising event this year on **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH**! We're doing it to raise much needed money for **UPGRADING THE CANTEEN**.

About the Day

The *Crazy Colour Day* is all about Fun! It will be a huge colourful mess and is undoubtedly one of the most exciting days on our school's calendar, with everyone's participation the aim, so please make sure they attend of the day and cheer the other kids on!

How Does My Child Fundraise?

Firstly, go to schoolfunrun.com.au and create a student profile page. Everything to do with your fundraising revolves around this page.

Students who raise just \$10 will be able to choose a prize! The more they raise, the better their reward – don't forget to check these out in the sponsorship form! We have educated students on the dangers of door knocking without adult supervision, and we encourage you to reiterate this at home. The great thing about online fundraising is that you can share the link to your child's profile with friends and family via email, SMS and Social media.

Online Fundraising

The easiest way to help your child raise money is through online fundraising, where students raise an average of \$120. On top of raising more money, it's also safer and easier than doorknocking and you don't have to worry about handling money! To start fundraising online, go to your student profile page at schoolfunrun.com.au and share your online fundraising link.

Getting Involved

Not only can you support the school and students with your sponsorship – but you can join in on the fun! We would love to welcome parents and family members to attend the *Crazy Colour Day*. If you would like to volunteer on the day, please contact me on the details below. I can't wait to see you at our event!

Ordering Prizes – ALL PRIZES MUST BE ORDERED ONLINE

Please contact your school's coordinator if this isn't possible.

Prizes **MUST** be ordered between the **SEPTEMBER 25TH** and **OCTOBER 2ND**. Simply visit schoolfunrun.com.au to create / log into your Profile Page between these dates. Then click on the 'CLAIM YOUR PRIZE' button and follow the prompts. If you have any questions, please contact the *School Fun-Run* team on 1800 FUN RUN and they will gladly assist!

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

Jandebrey WHITE SUFFOLKS



22nd Annual Ram Sale

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Maitland Showgrounds 1:30pm

Inspection from noon – BBQ lunch provided

80 Rams

Ovine Brucellosis Accredited Free

Ovine Johnes Vaccinated

Geoff & Tania Stock – Sandilands

P. (08) 8839 2052 M. 0438 392 052

E. gtstock@internode.on.net

Tony Clark, Wardle Co. 0427 363 161 – Andrew Parsons, Nutrien 0448 739 375



Growing Up Digital Australia: Invitation for parents and grandparents to have your say!

Are you a parent, carer or grandparent of children aged 5 to 17?

Do you wonder how digital media and technologies that they live with might affect their wellbeing, health and learning?

If your answer to these questions is 'yes', we would invite you to share your views with us [here!](#)

We at the Gonski Institute of Education at the University of NSW are working on a ground-breaking research project called Growing Up Digital Australia. This international research project that we partner with Harvard Medical School, the University of Alberta and Alberta Teachers Association seeks to understand the health, wellbeing and learning impacts of growing up in a digital world on our young people. A number of Australian organisations are supporting this project, including Departments of Education, parent organisations and teacher associations. This longitudinal study will reframe issues surrounding children's consumption of media and digital technologies moving into an evidence-based solutions to parents, educators and young people to live healthier, safer and happier lives here in Australia.

The Growing Up Digital project Phase 1 saw us work with almost 2,000 educators from around the country and find out what is happening in classrooms through the eyes of teachers and principals. Now with this Phase 2 survey, it is your turn as parents and grandparents to have your say.

This project has Ethics approval, and poses no risk to you. Participation is voluntary and you will never be identified at any stage. By completing the survey, you have the chance to be entered into the draw for one of four \$100 Coles Myer gift cards.

This Phase 2 survey will be open until 11 October, 2020. If you are a parent, carer or grandparent of any child aged 5-17, please complete the survey [here](#). You may also share this invitation to take part in this research with others by sharing the link to the questionnaire. If you are a parent, we would be delighted if you would invite one of your child's grandparents to take part in this survey.

To find out more about our project, and the results from Phase 1, visit us [here](#).

Upcoming Webinar for Parents

This school has a membership with Parenting Ideas, one of Australia's most trusted sources of parenting education and support. As part of this membership, all the parents in this school community can attend some fantastic webinars in 2020 at no cost. We're pleased to let you know about an upcoming webinar.

Teaching young people about healthy relationships: 9th Sept 8-9pm AEST

Webinar Overview

In a world where young people are bombarded by adult themes, sexualised and destructive media messages, it can be hard for parents to feel confident to take on delicate topics with their child. In this webinar Collett Smart gives parents the tools to build a strong relationship with their child where no topic is off-limits and they can come to them with any questions. Key learning and discussion points include:

- The foundations of healthy relationships and relationship intelligence
- How to help a child develop flourishing relationships at each age and stage of their development
- Appropriate age guidelines for talking about body safety, sex and sexualised media
- How to respond when a child comes across pornography
- Conversation ideas on consent and respectful relationships

To redeem your webinar click this [link](#)