



Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Issue 9
30th May 2019

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Whoever would have thought that I'd ever be using 'that' emoji on the school's Facebook page? What a day we had on Monday! At about 9.30am on Monday morning, our building site manager made contact to let me know that they had hit a pipe which wasn't shown on any of the plans while trenching for foundations. (It looks like we have a bowl of spaghetti under our new build area, with pipes, conduits and wires going in just about every direction.) We had to turn the water off. Result - no toilets or drinking water available within the school. With recess looming, we needed to make a speedy decision. We could use the public facilities at the Main Town Oval for a short while, but they wouldn't cope for long and logistically it was not easy for our littlest people to access. I sought

approval to evacuate the school and so the phone calls began... Thank you to all the parents and family members who responded so quickly to clear the school, and to the staff who sent Dojo messages and made the telephone calls to get in contact. Thanks also to the students who ran messages and accompanied younger students to the toilets at the oval - it really was a team effort. By 12.30 we had three students left on the premises. I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused to families, however given that the pipe issue was not rectified until after 7pm on Monday night, it was certainly the right decision to clear the school. Trenching on the site will cease until a full service location is undertaken so that we don't have a repeat of this problem. While this may hold up the works for a week or so, it's better than the alternative!

Last week we had the primary classes 'conga-ing' through the school at the conclusion of the National Simultaneous Storytime reading of Matt Cosgrove's, Alpacas with Maracas. Schools and libraries all over the country read the same book at 11am, but not all with the same passion and excitement as here at MDS I'm sure! With guitar and maracas accompanying, we enjoyed the story, read by DJAliB, of Macca and his pal Al as they entered a talent contest. At the conclusion of the story, we watched a pre-recorded video of the author reading his own work...the vote from the kids, Ms Bogle did it better! (No bribes were issued to get that result!) Rick had put the names of all the students in a hat and George Bennett was the lucky winner and recipient of a copy of the book. We then entertained the builders and the rest of the school as we did a conga line back to class from the library - all 136 of us! It was quite a sight.

I am seeking the support of parents and carers in ensuring that you contact us if issues arise for your children, either at school, on the bus, or via social media. It is difficult to deal with things if we are not told what's happening. On receiving information, we make enquiries to try to ascertain the full story and put in place both consequences where appropriate and restorative actions. We would ask that parents and carers do not approach other children, or take to social media if there is an issue as this can exacerbate the situation. In the first

Diary Dates

May

- 30th Yr 3,4,5
Excursion,
Adelaide
- Book Club,
Library 7.30pm
- 31st Reconciliation
Lunch

June

- 4th Adelaide
Uni
Presentation
to Yr 12s
- 6th Yr 8/9 Netball
- SAPSASA
Cross
Country
- 7th SRC Casual
Day
- 10th Public
Holiday
- 11th **STUDENT
FREE DAY**
- 12th Bounce &
Rhyme,
Library 8.50am
- 17th - 21st
SAPSASA
Football/
Netball
- 18th Governing
Council 7.30pm



instance please make contact with your child's care group teacher who will escalate the issue with the appropriate member of leadership should that be required. The earlier we hear about issues, the earlier we can intervene and minimise the impact for your child and others.

Next Friday, June 7th, the SRC are conducting a casual day in support of our World Vision sponsorship. Each primary class is determining their own theme, and Middle and Senior students are being asked to either dress casually, or wear one item of clothing that they might not normally while making their donation. Donations are to be given to Care Group teachers/SRC leaders in each class and House points are in the offing for the House who raises the most money. There's nothing like a bit of healthy competition.

In weeks 3 and 4 we had a spate of ill health with a number of students not quite making it through the day here at school. Thankfully we have not had influenza making a huge impact on the student body, though there is a long and cold winter ahead. We all know that regular school attendance is vital in ensuring students are able to maximise their learning, however I ask that you do monitor your child/ren's health and should they be showing any symptoms of colds or flu, please keep them home for a day and prevent the spread of illness through the whole school community. One day at home may just be enough to prevent a full blown illness and extended absence. Children who present at school unwell will be sent to the sick room and parents contacted to come and take them home. Dressing appropriately, getting sufficient sleep, eating a healthy range of foods and getting some exercise outside in the fresh air will all help to ward off the ills of this time of year.

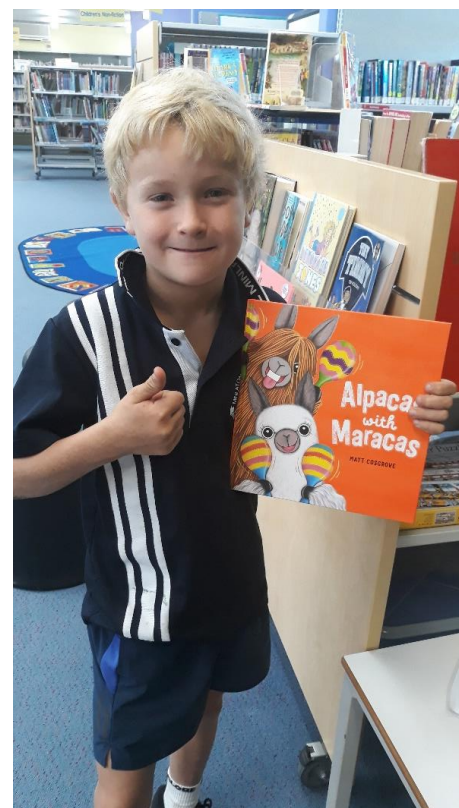
Families are reminded that Tuesday June 11th is a Student Free Day at MDS and surrounding schools, giving you all an extra-long, long weekend! The staff will be working on a range of training and development options designed to assist them to better provide positive learning opportunities for your children.

Happy reading! Ali

Library News

Rick Cook, teacher/Librarian

Last week we celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime by reading the wonderful new book 'Alpacas with Maracas' by Matt Cosgrove. Once again we were joined by our celebrity reader – Ms Bogle, who read the story with much enthusiasm as always. We then watched a video of the author reading the story, joined by Jimmy from Giggle and Hoot and two real life alpacas named Macca and Al. While Matt and Jimmy were impressive and the use of real alpacas was a popular stunt, it was generally agreed that Ms Bogle did it better! Other highlights included an impressive spelling display from Noah Nash who was able to spell 'simultaneous' without fault. George Bennett was the lucky winner of his very own copy of the book. Simultaneous story time is an initiative of the Australian Library and Information Association. This year over a million participants in Australia and New Zealand were involved. The object of the event is to encourage and raise the profile of reading for enjoyment. Many thanks to Ms Bogle for leading from the front in this regard. We are truly blessed to have a Principal who models her own enjoyment of reading so readily! Mr Cook.





Yr 8/9 Football Carnival

Craig Fitzgerald

On Tuesday 21st May, 35 students travelled to Maitland to participate in the Yorke Peninsula 8/9 Football Carnival. The games were played at Central Yorke School and Maitland Town Oval with the day coordinated by WWTFC.

The Year 9 boys played well in patches against some good sides and managed to win 2 matches for the day. Angus Maynard Reid played very well in all positions, with Baili King taking some good marks in the backlines. The Year 8 boys played at the school oval and won 1 match. Ethan Dortmund and Jacob Hickman tried hard all day and used their height to their advantage.

The combined Year 8/9 girls team played some outstanding football with some excellent individual and team efforts. The tackling was ferocious, and the skill level was elite. The girls won all their matches and were crowned champions for the day. All contributed well in the side but Shineah Goody, Ailin Marshall and Shely Marshall were on fire and needed a bucket of water to cool down. Thanks to Kayne, Mav, Scott, Josh, Amelia and Isabella, Mr Coombe and Ellen for coaching, umpiring and supporting the sides throughout the day.

SAPSASA Athletics

Josh Coombe

Last week, six MDS students represented SYP in the 2019 SAPSASA Athletics State Carnival at SANTOS stadium in Adelaide. Freddie Wilson, Olivia East, Ashleigh Kilpatrick-Hall, Nicholas Krieg, Gabrielle Hickman and Harriet Parsons earnt the right to compete after their performances at the SYP Interschool Sports Day last term.

Freddie Wilson competed in the 12 year old 800m, relay and high jump. Freddie won a silver medal in high jump for the second successive year with 145cm the height cleared. He finished in 17th place in his 800m and his relay team finished 8th in their heat.

Olivia East had a busy day with four events on her agenda - the 100m, 200m, relay and high jump for the 13 year olds. Olivia's highlight was finishing 7th in the high jump with a height of 130cm. She finished 5th in her 100m heat, 6th in her 200m heat and 8th in her relay heat.

Ashleigh finished 7th in her 12 year old 100m heat and 6th in the relay heat. Harriet's 10 year old relay team finished 4th in their heat also.

Nicholas was ecstatic with his best throw of 19.47m in his 11 year old discus event, finishing in 7th place. His relay team also made the finals, finishing in 8th place.

Gabrielle threw 14.36m in her 11 year old discus event and 6th, while her relay team agonisingly missed out on the final by 0.3 of a second!

Overall, it was a strong performance yet again from our students on this day against some red-hot competitors from all over the state. Congratulations to them all on their efforts! For the record, the Southern Yorke Peninsula team finished in 12th place out of 20 country regions.



Pastoral Care

Ellen Burford, Pastoral Care Worker

This week people across Australia are celebrating National Reconciliation Week. The theme for 2019 is 'Grounded in Truth'. This is an important opportunity to share experiences, remember the past and look to the future as we consider how we can all help achieve reconciliation.

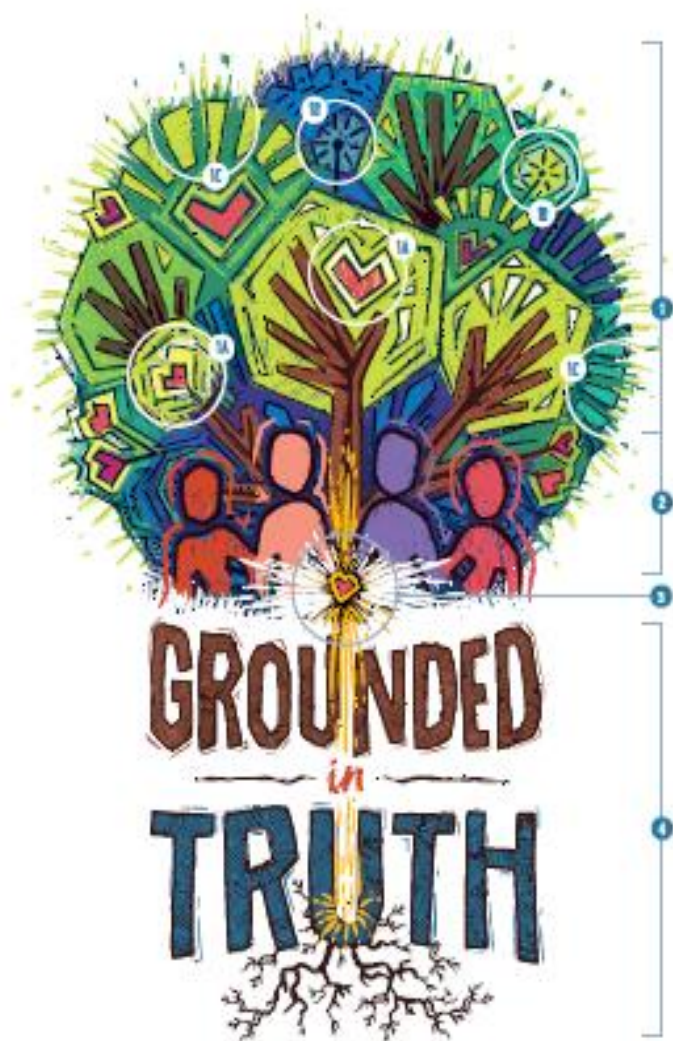
Our school will be celebrating on Friday afternoon with a free BBQ for students and staff. Have you ever tried kangaroo sausages or wild boar? How about Lilly Pilly or Wild Rosella jam? If not, Friday is your lucky day! Some of our Aboriginal students are also creating a Welcome to Country video which we hope to share with you very soon.

If you'd like to explore Reconciliation Week more or hear personal stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people I recommend the links below:

<http://www.shareourpride.org.au/>

<http://www.reconciliationsa.org.au/>

<http://healingfoundation.org.au/>



EXPLAINING THE TREE OF TRUTH

The Tree of Truth is what happens when the seeds of empathy, solidarity and love are sown. This is a representation of the community that we can grow into if we are able to acknowledge our history, learn from it and move forward together courageously.

BREAKING DOWN THE GRAPHIC

1 THE TREE

The tree stems from what happens when people come together. It illustrates positive growth and is an aspirational view of what the future could be.

- A. The HEARTS represent empathy, solidarity, goodwill and love. They are the feeling, emotional elements.
- B. The THOUGHT POINTS represent education, growth and understanding. They are the cognitive elements of the tree.
- C. The GROWTH BANDS radiate outwards from some of the branches. They represent that we are always learning and growing – pushing outwards and upwards into the future.

2 THE PEOPLE

Members of our diverse community coming together in harmony.

3 THE HEART

This is the connection point of the people in the graphic. When the people's hands join, it creates an energy force which is represented by the love heart. The energy runs upwards and downwards – linking past, present and future.

4 TYPE LOCKUP

The word 'Truth' is the backbone for all of our positive growth. When we understand and accept our truth we have a solid foundation to grow from. The roots represent our history and links to the past. The word 'Grounded' quite literally is on the surface of the ground. 'Grounded in Truth' is designed to be the base of the tree that all of the positive growth stems from.

Reconciliation Week



Primary News

Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

Developing Minds – A Helpful Website

The Developing Minds website is an excellent place to go for parents if they are looking for some sound advice when dealing with various behaviours that children often display. The website puts out blog posts on a wide variety of topics. The two latest topics include:

- Frustrated kids: What research tells us about their thought processes and how we should work with them
<https://mailchi.mp/developingminds.net.au/frustrated-kids-what-research-tells-us-about-their-thought-processes-and-how-we-should-work-with-them-non-members?e=6860487827>
- "It's not fair", "You're an idiot!" and "He cheated!": Kids and teens 'Angry talk': Teaching them what to say instead
<https://mailchi.mp/developingminds.net.au/its-not-fair-youre-an-idiot-and-he-cheated-kids-and-teens-angry-talk-teaching-them-what-to-say-instead-pros?e=6860487827>

The website with the archived blogs on a wide variety of topics can be found at: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=02fb10f4159cc941d3ca7d63b&id=795d78230c>

Learning Journey Folders

Each of the Primary Classes have the Learning Journey Folders in the classrooms. Parents are more than welcome to come in and have a look at them when dropping off or picking up children from school. Generally, the Learning Journey Folders will have some of the children's goals and pieces of work of which they are proud. For the older students there will be some completed assignments along with the feedback. The younger students will have more photos of their learning. The folders are a work in progress and by the end of the year there will be a good example of the topics covered and an indication of each child's learning journey in 2019.

Senior School Update

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

Senior School Report

Week 5 already, where has the time gone? Whilst this is the halfway point of the term, more importantly for senior students it means that by the time this newsletter is published, there will be only 3 weeks left in their semester! As it is rapidly approaching the business end of the semester, all students from years 10 through 12 need to be doing everything in their control to make these next few weeks count.

For year 12 students, the school assessed parts of Research Project have been completed and by 3pm on the 14th of June they will have totally finished this subject! For Year 10 and 11 students the semester ends at 3pm on Friday the 22nd of June, with subject specific guidelines for the submission of final assessment items prior to that date. Year 10s have Work Experience in week 9 when we also begin a new semester, new timetable and new subjects for many students. Certainly a flat out end to the term.

Mid-Term Progress Reports

At such a busy time for students it is pertinent to remind everyone that we use a range of strategies within the senior school to assist students to stay on track and well situated to achieve their best possible personal performance in each subject. Being sent home this week via Daymap are Mid-Term Progress Reports of each student's academic progress in each of their subject areas, as well as their current attendance record. This allows us to get a really good picture of how students are travelling and enables us to intervene, offer support and assist them to turn things around wherever possible. It is important to note that parents of students who receive a red or yellow result are asked to contact their student's Care Group teacher, the subject teacher or myself at school as soon as possible to arrange a meeting to discuss student progress.

When combined with our other regular monitoring and mentoring programs for senior students, individualised subject counseling, regular parent contact and the availability, approachability and professionalism of staff we aim to ensure that every senior student here at MDS gets the best opportunities to be successful at school.

Review of Career Counselling in schools survey

The state government has commissioned the Career Industry Council of Australia (CICA) to review career counselling in South Australian public secondary schools. Personally, I think that we do this quite well, however there is always scope for improvement. It is always worthwhile to look at the areas where we can further assist students in preparing for their futures.

Consultation informing the review includes a survey of school community members including principals, teachers, career practitioners, parents and students. CICA's review will help inform how we can improve quality and consistency of career counselling in schools. Please take the time to have a say in the way career counselling can be best delivered to our students; I certainly will! The link to complete the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/sacareercounsellingreview>

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 students will have a **compulsory** Work Experience week in Week 9 of Term 2, from the 24th of June until 28th of June this year. It is important to note that this is really meant to be a student driven process; students should be making phone calls and following things up, not parents. All Year 10 students will be required to undertake a DfE Workplace Preparation module prior to undertaking any Work Experience; this entails a number of online activities which cover Workplace Health & Safety, Equal Opportunity & Discrimination, Worker Rights & Responsibilities and other pre-Work Experience preparatory activities. All students who undertake a work placement are required to complete the course each year, whether they have done so previously or not. Workplace Learning Agreement forms are available from my office and must be fully completed by all parties prior to the placement beginning. For mid-year Work Experience week,

placements must be organised and forms completed and returned no later than 9am Wednesday the 5th of June (Week 6, Term 2). Year 11 students will have the opportunity to undertake a Work Experience in Semester 2, or by negotiation. **Please note – for any students undertaking a placement outside of the scheduled school “blocks”, all forms and paperwork must be completed in full and submitted a minimum of 7 days prior to the starting date or the placement will not be approved.**

Careers Trip 2019

Week 5 of Term 3 (19-23 August) is the Year 10 Careers and Civics Trip. Parents and students may want to begin arranging accommodation. Monday is a travel/familiarisation day, with the 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. More information, including a program of visits and a parent information evening will follow at a later date.

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

8/9 Girls Football Champions

Photo Credit; Steve Marshall

