



Great excitement this week as all classes have been provided with supervised access to the new Nature Play Space! Screams of joy and trepidation rolled into one as they climb the structures, balance on beams, jump from post to post and slide down the fire-pole! It's been fabulous to see their faces and hear their excitement about this new area within our school. At this stage the fence remains in place and students will not have unfettered access at recess and lunch until next week. For the first few weeks (until the novelty wears off!) we will roster year levels on different days of the week and work out where the greatest demand is. Each class has been asked to contribute to the guidelines which will be in place around safe and fair use.

You would have seen the pictures posted on Facebook last week of the furniture created by the 6-9 Outdoor Construction Personal Interest group under the guidance of Greg Hackett and with the support of Jeremy and Tom. Now that we have the new area, we need to do some other 'work' around the place to create some pathways and do some planting and mulching. You know the saying many hands make light work? Well, we are looking for some volunteers to do a bit of labouring, weeding, pruning and general 'tizzying' the place up, so that we can make our whole school a fabulous place to be! We are also on the lookout for some sizeable rocks (and I know many of you have these just lying around!) to use as path and garden bed markers.

If you can spare a couple of hours from about 9am on Saturday October 26th, we would love to see you. Please let us know if you can join us by giving Shan a ring at the Front Office, then early next term we will allocate you a particular task/group so you know what to bring along to help with your job on the morning! We'll work for a couple of hours then have a sausage sizzle to refuel you before you head home. Looking forward to seeing our school look amazing!

Over the course of the last three weeks students in Years 1 - 10 have been undertaking PAT testing which provide us with really useful information about what students can do really well and where there may be gaps in their learning or understanding. We have been really pleased by the learning growth that we are seeing in the majority of our students, and will be using individual student results to further tailor specific learning and stretch some of our high achievers. Complementing this data is the movement of our early learners through the various levels of Read Write Inc and the wonderful growth that we are seeing for our Middle years students in their reading comprehension. Next week parents will receive this year's Naplan results for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 which will be posted home. Remember that we are always available to speak to you about your child's progress and if you would like to

## Diary Dates

### September

18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

MS Learning Conversations

19<sup>th</sup> Fishcare Yr 3/4 & 5 classes

26<sup>th</sup> Headspace Parent Session 5pm

Colour Run Fundraiser

27<sup>th</sup> Didgeribone Performance

27<sup>th</sup> Early Dismissal, 2pm

do so, please make an appointment either through Class Dojo, Daymap, via email or ring the Front Office and leave a message for a teacher to get back to you.

Next Thursday MDS holds its annual Colour Fun Run. This is our major fundraiser for the year and we are hoping to beat last year's total. All students received a pamphlet some weeks ago with details about how to register online to create a profile and begin fundraising. (Go to [schoolfundraising.com.au](http://schoolfundraising.com.au) and create a page) Donations can then be made direct via EFT to the profile page so children don't have to handle any money, and neither does the school. This also means that you can seek donations far and wide; friends and relations everywhere! Please support this fundraising effort – every little bit counts. Students are vying for House Points associated with the Fun Run – the number of online registrations per house, the amount raised per house, and the number of 'laps' of the course per house will all be used to allocate points. Come along and get into the spirit of the day. Dale is organising a HOT DOG special lunch order to give us an extra energy boost to make it through the course! It's a fun afternoon and kids are advised to wear a white top so that the colour has a big impact. See you there – 1.30 at the shed on the Don Snook oval.

At this Tuesday's Governing Council meeting I was able to present some concept drawings for the refurbishment of our gymnasium. As you all know our roof leaks like a sieve and needs replacing desperately. We have commissioned our architect, David Shannon, to develop plans which would reconfigure the main entrance and provide another storage area with access from the oval. We are costing the option of air conditioning and will complete the upgrade with the provision of a disabled toilet off the new foyer area. Through our fundraising efforts in recent years and money in our account, we believe that we can give this project the green light. More detailed drawings and costings will now be produced, but we would hope to begin this project toward the end of the 2020 school year.

Next Friday we will farewell our 3/4 class teacher Ella Pritchard for some time while she goes on maternity leave (well we hope Ella lasts that long!). Our whole school community, and certainly all the children in the class wish Ella and Josh all the very best for the arrival of their new addition to the family. I am delighted to announce that Jess Hills will be joining us in Ella's absence to take over the reins of the 3/4 class for the remainder of this year. Jess has spent some time with us in recent weeks working in the classroom and getting to know the children and we look forward to having her work alongside us.

Next Friday sees us conclude what has been yet another busy term. We will be dismissing at 2pm on Friday after a short informal assembly and the buses will leave at 2.10, so please adjust your pick up time for children accordingly. Enjoy the coming break – both students and staff alike have been working hard all term and are looking forward to some well-deserved respite. Happy holidays!

*Ali*

## Rowan Ramsey Community Awards

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This annual award is sponsored by Rowan Ramsey, Federal Member for Grey and presented at Presentation Night. The award can be given to a parent, staff member, student (year 6-12) or a member of the community who has demonstrated outstanding qualities through involvement in the Minlaton School Community over a period of time and meets the following criteria;

- Displayed a high degree of involvement in school community events or school organisations.

And/or

- Made an extra effort for their school community throughout the year.

A panel comprising student, parent, staff and Governing Council Representatives will select the award winner. If you know of a person who meets the above criteria, we encourage you to forward a written nomination, stating name and commendation to Ali Bogle, Principal by Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> September 3.00pm.

## Middle School Awards

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The Minlaton and District Lioness Club are sponsoring the following awards for students in **Years 6-9**. Parents, Staff and Community members may nominate Minlaton District School students for these awards.

Lioness Art Award - Criteria:

- Student displays a high level of commitment and involvement in the Arts
- Student endeavours to improve their artistic talents
- Student demonstrates flair in one or more artistic areas including music, dance, drama, visual arts and design

Lioness School Community Award - Criteria:

- Student displays a high level of involvement in school and community organisations and events.
- Student brings credit to themselves and the school by their actions both within and outside the school.
- Student displays leadership qualities and is a good role model for other students.

A person wishing to nominate a student needs to write a letter addressing the criteria for the particular award. A panel consisting of a Lioness member, a Governing Councillor or parent and a Middle School teacher will select the recipients of the awards. The awards will be presented at Presentation Night. Nominations should be forwarded to Greg Hackett by 3.00pm on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> September.

## Year 12 Sports Person Award

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Essential Criteria

- Must be in Year 12
- Been involved in sport in every year of enrolment (preferably at least in years 10-12)
- Been involved in a range of strictly school sports (community sport not taken into consideration)
- Been a consistent or excellent performer at all times in all sports undertaken.

Preferred Criteria

- Displayed leadership or held leadership positions in sports undertaken and been a role model to fellow students
- Been an ambassador for Minlaton District School
- Shown willingness to assist teachers and parents in the set-up, organisation or any other aspects of sports teams/events
- Displayed all attributes of goods "Sports-person-ship"
- Upheld school and other codes of conduct at all times

**Nominations:** Students, parents and staff are able to nominate students for this award. The winner will be selected by the HPE Committee based on the evidence presented to them on nomination forms. All nominations need to be addressed to Craig Fitzgerald (MDS HPE Committee) and submitted no later than 3pm on Friday 27th September.

The winning student will receive a certificate of recognition and an award from the Minlaton Service Group.

## **SECONDARY Sportsperson Award**

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- Open to male and female students in years 8-11
- Consistent or high achievement in a range of school sports (community sport not taken into consideration).
- Positive ambassador for MDS at all times.

## **PRIMARY Sportsperson Award**

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- Open to male and female students in years 5-7
- Consistent or high achievement in a range of school sports (community sport not taken into consideration).
- Positive ambassador for MDS at all times.

Nominations can be made by staff, students, parents and community members. All nominations need to be addressed to Craig Fitzgerald (MDS HPE Committee) and submitted no later than 3pm on Friday 27th September.

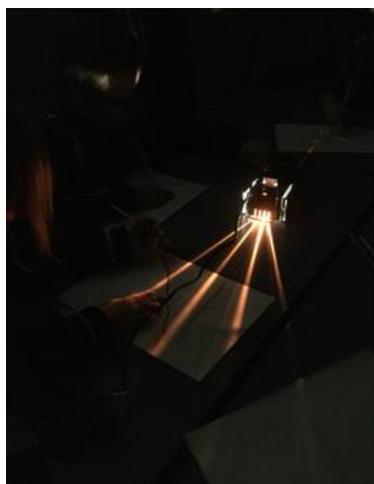
The Secondary & Primary Sports Awards are kindly donated by the Minlaton Cricket Club. Thank you to the MCC for your generous support.

## **Primary News**

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Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

The Reception/One class have been learning about the topic of 'Light' in our Science lessons. As part of our studies we were lucky enough to visit Mr Firinauskas and some of the senior students in the science lab. Our visits were over three weeks on Wednesday afternoons in the last lesson of the day. We did some really cool things!!! We got to experiment with the light boxes with the help of the senior students. We changed the colour of the light, used shapes to reflect and refract light, made shadow puppets, traced light beams onto paper and best of all we had lots of fun!!! We would like to thank Mr Firinauskas, Julia, James, Kyra and Eb for helping us with our learning and providing us with new and exciting experiences



### Performances

The Primary students viewed two performances last week. The first performance was a free one sponsored by SA Water. The highly entertaining presentation took the Yr 3-7 children on a journey with the water found in rivers, reservoirs, sewerage and the ocean. The journey went through the processes used to create usable water for either consumption or, in the case of the sewerage water, for farming and gardens. Both Stansbury Primary School and Curramulka Primary School joined us for the show.

The second performance was called 'Let's Chat Habitat' and was attended by the R-7 students. Here are some comments from Yr 2/3 students about what they learnt from the show:

"Super Steph was talking about how to save electricity by turning off switches at the power point and turning off the TV at the wall. This saves electricity because it helps reduce the amount of carbon. We need to reduce the amount of carbon because carbon heats up the air. If it gets hotter then it changes habitats. If habitats change then some animals might die like the dinosaurs did. She used all recycled materials to make puppets, which she used in the performance, and this also helped to save the environment."

by Brianna Warrior, Alexis Krieg, Edward Liebelt and Nicholas Preedy

### Two Stars and a Wish

This week your child would have brought home their 'Two Stars and a Wish' sheets. Both the children and the teachers have filled out the sheets describing two areas in which each child excels and an area to focus on for the remainder of the year. There is also a section for the parent/caregiver to fill in. We find these sheets to be valuable as they are written for the children. The 'two stars' gives a real boost to the students' self-esteem. Please take the opportunity to discuss them with your child. We would appreciate the sheets returned to the teacher by the due date on the form.



## ANZ Tennis Hot Shots – Tennis Racquet Giveaway

Last Friday, all Reception students at Minlaton District School received a free tennis racquet from ANZ Bank and the ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Program. Since 2015, ANZ have provided over 110,000 racquets to new school starters with a further 30,000 to be delivered this term! ANZ Tennis Hot Shots is a program designed to help every child, no matter their age or ability, jump in and start playing tennis. ANZ Tennis Hot Shots is played on smaller courts with modified equipment including lighter racquets, lower nets and low compression balls that don't bounce too high. The ANZ Tennis Hot Shots program will be run at the Minlaton Tennis Club starting in Week 2 of Term 4 (24<sup>th</sup> October). The program runs on Thursday afternoons (3:30pm-4:15pm) for 5 consecutive weeks for children aged 5-8. The cost of the program is \$30 with parent support during the program greatly appreciated. Please contact Kristy Coombe on 0407 798 333 for further information and to register your interest. There is a limit on numbers, so get in quick. Have fun with your new tennis racquet!



## Pastoral Care

Ellen Burford

The holidays are so close!!! Everyone seems well and truly ready for a break. But until then we still have a few fun things to do!

Headspace is returning on Thursday next week to give our 7-12s their final workshop on taking care of mental health, and don't forget there's one for the adults too! If you'd like to find out what your child has been discussing and perhaps discover new ways for you to be there for them, please come along on Thursday night for the parent/caregiver session. That'll be in the Minlaton Community Library at 5 PM on Thursday 26th September - we would appreciate knowing numbers so please get in touch or indicate your attendance on Facebook.



I'm really looking forward to having a visit from Tjupurru - an Indigenous artist from Queensland - who will be treating us to a high-tech didgeridoo performance on the last day of school! Kids, get your dance moves ready. He'll be here on Friday morning of Week 10 and you can check him out at <http://www.tjupurru.com>

To get in early on another 'cultural experience' mark Sunday 20th October in your diaries for the Police Band concert. Next term these powerful musicians will be hitting Minlaton Town Hall for the second year in a row to raise money for school chaplaincy in Curramulka Primary School and Minlaton District School (aka what I do!). Tickets can be bought at King's or on the day.

With the end in sight sometimes I think our fuse can get shorter and our attention can race ahead to holidays. Can I remind us all (me included!) to keep looking out for the people around us and showing care in little ways. It'll make the here and now so much more meaningful, and Friday Week 10 will be here before we know it!

As the old saying goes: "Kind words are like honey - sweet to the taste and good for your health."

Over and out, Ellen 😊



**S.A. POLICE  
BAND**

Performing  
in the  
Minlaton Town Hall  
on Sunday 20th October  
at 2pm

Adults \$15   
School-age children \$5

No reserved seating

*Tickets can be bought at Kings  
Minlaton or at the door on the day*

Proceeds to aid School Chaplaincy (PCW)



**HEADSPACE**  
**PARENT & CAREGIVER SESSION**

In Week 2 our Year 7-12 students had a visit from Headspace. Their last workshop around mental health and wellbeing is taking place on Thursday 26th September Week 10.

Parents and caregivers, we would love for you to hear about what your children have been learning and how you can support them in light of these workshops. We will be holding a session with our Headspace presenter just for you on **Thursday 26th September in the Minlaton Community Library at 5:00 PM.**

There is a minimum requirement for participants, **so please let us know via the school Facebook page event or by contacting the front office** if you would like to attend.



## Senior School Update

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Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

Recently I have had a number of meetings with parents, sometimes quite unexpectedly when parents have arrived at my office door. Whilst I make myself very contactable and am always happy to spend time discussing any aspect of a student's education, I do need to remind all parents and carers that meetings must be organised by first calling the front office and asking to be transferred through to me or via email, with a confirmation in return. Also, when arriving, I must remind everyone that Workplace Health and Safety regulations mean that all visitors are required to sign in at the front office, where you can speak with a member of the administration staff who will arrange things from there. We need to follow these regulations to ensure that everyone on site is able to be accounted for in the case of emergency. Thank you for your support with this.

### Subject Counselling

Students have now completed their subject selections for the 2019 school year, well done all! The super fun, behind the scenes aspects of timetabling and further discussions are now underway. Before too long all students should have their timetables for next year set. Scary stuff indeed!

### Term 4 Work Experience

All Year 10 & 11 students must undertake at least one week of Work Experience in either Week 8 or 9 of Term 4. Students may choose to undertake 2 placements over the fortnight. Placements must be organised and paperwork must be submitted to the school no later than 9am Thursday of Week 5 Term 4 (14<sup>th</sup> November). The placement dates are 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December (Week 8, Term 4) and 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December (Week 9, Term 4). It would really pay to get in early and find yourself a placement (either locally or further afield) in an area of interest. Leaving it until the last minute often means students are left with few viable choices. It is also important to note that this is a student driven process; students should be making phone calls and following things up, not parents. Work Experience forms are available upon request.

### Final Dates for Year 12 students

- Semester 2 Research Project Students: Final pieces submitted no later than the end of the school day 27<sup>th</sup> September. These must be submitted correctly using the appropriate file name on Daymap.
- Last day to submit any school assessed work is 23<sup>rd</sup> October (Wednesday Week 2, Term 4). Most subjects will be finished school assessed work by then anyway, but any work for which extensions had been granted must be submitted by that time.
- Last Official School Day for Year 12s: 25th October (Friday Week 2, Term 4).
- Year 12 exams run between Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November (Weeks 4 and 5, Term 4).
- Year 12 students are required to attend Presentation night on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

More information will be provided around end of year arrangements shortly. 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](mailto:glen.white872@schools.sa.edu.au)

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator



by Michael Grose

## Why self-sufficiency is paramount

Are you asking your kids to step up?

We do a lot for our kids, because we love them and often they need us. But we forget that one of the best things we can do for our kids is to help them learn to do for themselves and for others.

Do you ask your kids to do chores, to help out on a regular basis? You would be surprised how many parents - who were raised doing chores - don't ask the same of their kids. If you do give them chores, do you sometimes go behind them and redo the work when they're done? Don't! If it's not done right, get your child to fix it.

When I ask why parents don't give chores or why they don't challenge their kids with hard things - and I do, all over the world - parents tell me it's because kids are too... busy! They're working their tails off on classwork, teams, clubs, groups, trying to excel at 100 different things! So adults are willing to take on every other responsibility in their lives in order to facilitate these goals. And it's hurting kids.

We drive them everywhere - fewer teens are seeking drivers' licences each year. We type their work, do their research and try to buy them anything they or we think might possibly increase their success. We solve every problem and bulldoze over every potential obstacle. And kids accept this as the natural order of things.

We are stepping in front of our kids, when in fact we should be stepping back and allowing our kids to step up.

It sounds like tough love, but it's not. This is parenting. This is making sure that our kids, in just a few short years, don't still need us to do everything for them. Our kids know that we are expert problem-solvers. Now it's their turn to step up and learn to help themselves and others.

So how can we let kids step up? Here are a few tips you can try right now with kids of any age.

- When your child or teen comes to you with a problem, don't fix it. Say "You're a good problem-solver. What do you think?" And then listen to the answer.
- Expect them to fail, and talk about what they'll do when (not if) that happens.
- Give them tasks to do that help the whole family (not only themselves) and make sure they do them, until it's done well. Be patient, but firm.

It's crucial that you take a step back and let your kids make mistakes and learn from their experiences. You aren't going to be there in adulthood to clear the obstacles they face or solve the struggles. They eventually will have to make decisions and find solutions on their own and they will be ill-prepared if they weren't allowed to make those mistakes under supervision while you're right there to show empathy and give support!

You may be thinking "but what if there's an emergency and I have to jump in?" Well, first define emergency.

Two percent of the time, kids need an adult to jump in front of them and solve the problem. They need an adult to protect them from a life-threatening issue that overwhelms their internal resources such as when they experience bullying, mental health issues and eating disorders.

The other ninety-eight percent of the time kids need a compassionate adult to take an interest, from a distance, without fixing anything. So step back so that a child or a young person can step up and handle problems and dilemmas themselves.

**WANT TO KNOW WHY EVERYONE LOVES FEMALE FOOTY?  
COME & PLAY WITH US**

Come and plays are a great way of getting involved with footy for the first time

Girls will have a quick intro to handball and kicking before being split into teams to play. Modified footy rules means it's safe and lots of fun!

Who: 11 years and above  
Age Groups: U13, U17 & Open  
When: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October | 10:00am – 11:30am  
Where: Moonta Oval

**REGISTER FOR FREE NOW**  
<https://sanfl.com.au/inside-sanfl/events>

Bring: Water bottle, closed in shoes and a hat

A parent information session will be run side by side to the come and play. This will help parents understand the modified rules the girls are playing, answer any questions and will link families to their local community club.

For more information contact the Female Engagement Team  
[female.engagement@sanfl.com.au](mailto:female.engagement@sanfl.com.au)

#GirlsKickingGoals

THE MAITLAND MUSIC & ARTS CLUB PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL  
Production Of

Disney  
**THE LITTLE MERMAID**  
Directed & Choreographed by Leanne Cane

7pm - Friday 25th  
2pm & 7pm - Saturday 26th  
October 2019  
McKnight Theatre  
Maitland

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/BFGVD>  
Adult \$15 Child/Concession \$10

Music by Alan Menken      Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater      Book by Doug Wright  
Based on the Hans Christian Andersen Story and the Disney Film  
Produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker  
and written & directed by John Musker and Ron Clements  
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)  
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia

### The Great Gum Flat Adventure Thursday 3 October

Come and join the Great Gum Flat Adventure! Loads of free nature play activities on offer, including making nature scavenger bracelets and warrior arm bands, totem sticks and wooden log round mandala's. Enjoy cubby-building, nature scavenger hunts, trail walking, Narungga (Nharangga) connections, bird watching, water bug catching, and lots more! Be free to roam the Gum Flat and discover all of its secret spots, including the newly developed mountain bike trail. Pack a picnic basket and rug and enjoy morning tea or lunch in the sunshine. Explore Gum Flat and enjoy the great outdoors during the Spring holidays!



**Date/time:**

Thursday, 3 October 2018, anytime between 10.00am - 1.00pm

**Location:**

Gum Flat Reserve, Corner of Gum Flat and Old Port Vincent Roads, Minlaton

**For more information and to register:**

Visit [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au) and search for Gum Flat

### Our Mission

*"To develop children of all abilities by promoting positive attitudes and a healthy lifestyle through family and community involvement in athletic activities."*



### Our Vision

*"For athletics to be the foundation sporting activity of choice for all children between the age of 3 and 17."*

SYP little Aths meets on Tuesdays from 4 pm at the Minlaton District School Oval during term 4 and 1, please contact Dale : 0487 888 416 or visit [www.salaa.org.au](http://www.salaa.org.au) for more information.

