



Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Issue 1
30th January 2020

Ph: (08)8853 2346 Fax: (08) 8853 2531 <http://www.minlatonds.sa.edu.au/>



The 2020 academic year has begun and Tuesday morning saw us welcome 34 new students to our school, comprising 14 new Reception students and 20 at various other year levels. To our new families, welcome and we hope that this is the beginning of a strong partnership with us to support your young people gain a quality education and set them up for a positive future. Our staff spent last week (and many the week before) preparing classrooms and organising programs in readiness for the start of the school year, and there was some excitement about greeting the students on Tuesday morning. The Year 11 and 12 students have taken up residence in the new building and are already seeing the benefits of its flexibility with rooms being configured to suit the class using sliding doors and operable walls.

New Staff: Several new staff have joined our ranks this year. Claudia Agnew, Leonie Croser, Susie Reynolds and Bill Fraser (all who have taught at MDS in the past!) join us while other staff take various leave this term; and Kirsty Campion and Tina Slaby have each joined us for the full year in teaching roles, while Felicity Kemp will provide support for Zoe in the Finance office. We are delighted to welcome our new staff members and look forward to the positive contributions that they will make to our school.

Mobile Phones: As I welcomed students on Tuesday morning I reiterated our policy on the use of mobile phones at MDS. There has been a lot of recent publicity interstate about banning phones so I wanted to ensure that our students understood our local policy. While students are able to bring mobile phones to school we expect that they are kept secure in their bags in their lockers throughout the school day, this includes recess and lunch times. Should a student require their phone, for example to take photographs of work in progress in Tech or Art as part of their assessment, they seek permission from their supervising teacher and then return the phone to their locker on completion of the task. If students use their phones without this permission, or have phones on their person during the day, they will be asked to take their phone to the front office where it will be kept secure until the end of the school day. Parents will be asked to come and collect phones where students are repeat offenders. In order to support us, we ask that parents who wish to contact their children during the school day, do so via the Front Office (88532346) and do not attempt to make contact via mobile phone.

Acquaintance Night: We extend a warm welcome to all parents to come and meet our staff and have a look at our new building on Wednesday February 12th. Our Primary teachers will be inviting parents at specific times and letters will be coming home with this schedule very soon, as they have some very specific things they would like to share with you. We would like to invite parents of students in Years 6 – 12 to come between 6.30 and 7.30 for a more informal gathering where you can meet your child's teachers, have a look at the learning environment and grab a sausage from the BBQ. One night for the whole school will hopefully alleviate multiple commitments for families on different nights, and the informal approach between 6.30 and 7.30 will allow parents to drop in, see several staff, and attend primary meetings if required. I do hope that you will all make an effort to be here. Please RSVP (for catering) either via your child's CG teacher, or let Shan/Stacey know in the Front Office.

Governing Council Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting of the Minlaton District School

Diary Dates

February

3rd - 4th Yr 6/7
Aquatics

10th Yr 1/2
Aquatics

11th Yr 2/3
Aquatics

Governing
Council
AGM 7pm
Library

12th PPEP
Presentation
Yr 8 -12
Girls

MDS R-12
Acquaintance
Evening

14th Yr 4/5
Aquatics
Berry Bay

18th Student ID
Photos

24th Yr 8/9
Aquatics

Please remember our school is a 25kph zone. All drivers MUST not exceed 25kph when in school zone. Please be vigilant when approaching our crossing and STOP when students are present.

Governing Council will be held on Tuesday February 11th in the School Community Library. The following parents have concluded their two year term as GC members and we thank them for their service to the school; Dean McIntosh, Kimberley Hamilton, Sarah Preedy, Rachel Cook, Kristen Wilson, Lee Blyth, Rhani Newbold, Kendall Parsons and Brooke Liebelt. Continuing members are: Richard Way, Carolyn Jansons, Debra Sullivan, Shae Hender, and Rebecca Brown. Within this newsletter you will find a nomination form to join the Governing Council, and I encourage all parents, old and new to consider nominating. Our GC meets twice per term, usually on a Tuesday evening (though the night is flexible until the membership is confirmed). Even if you do not wish to join the GC, you are very welcome to attend the AGM.

Newsletters: We issue a newsletter every fortnight on the 'odd' weeks of the term and these are either emailed or sent home each Thursday. We find that emailing ensures that parents receive them; the number that are left in the bottom of lockers or in class trays is quite astounding, so if you would like to receive an email copy please let Stacey in the Front Office know. Copies of each newsletter are also uploaded onto the school website if you miss one, or want to look back at something.

Parent information and contact details: Thank you to all who have successfully completed your homework. We have been inundated with returned information sheets and the cross checking and minor changes are well underway. If you have yet to return your checked family information sheet please do so urgently.

BYOD: We were disappointed that the HP laptops which we ordered for students did not arrive before school began as promised. They did arrive on Tuesday however, and all students should now have their devices. Aaron has been busy this week ensuring that all students have access to the network and the required programs installed. Please encourage your child/ren to put their laptops on charge overnight so that they are fully charged to begin the day. Students should be aware that running programs in the background can use significant battery power causing devices to shut down before the end of the school day. We require students to shut down at the end of lessons and only open programs which are in use during lessons.

We are looking forward to another great year at MDS. It's a busy place with lots happening to support the learning and growth of our young people. So welcome to another year, Ali

APPLYING FOR A SCHOOL CARD



All types of School Card applications are now online.

You can access the online forms from any device that gets internet, including mobile devices, such as tablets and smart phones, as well as laptops and computers.

Applying online is easy! Simply follow the steps below.

- STEP 1** Visit sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard
- STEP 2** Select the type of School Card you would like to apply for (for example 'Type A') and follow the prompts.
- STEP 3** Complete all mandatory fields.
Please note: you cannot submit your application unless all mandatory fields are complete.
- STEP 4** Once you have completed a page click on the 'NEXT' button.
- STEP 5** Once you have filled out all pages click the 'SUBMIT' button.
Please note: if you exit the form without clicking 'SUBMIT' your details will be lost.

You can save the form, and return to complete it at another time, by clicking on the 'SAVE' button.



sa.gov.au/education/schoolcard



School Card

Please see details attached regarding School Card Applications for 2020. A reminder; you have to apply each year, so you will need to submit a new application for 2020 even if you were approved in 2019. Please see Zoe in the finance office if you have any questions.

Bus Passes

The Brentwood/Hardwicke Bay bus has no spare seats. No bus passes will be issued for this route.

Student Data

Each family should have received printouts of 'Student Personal Data' in the holidays together with the Principal's 'welcome' letter. Can you please review, amend, sign and return this paperwork as a matter of urgency. It is very important we have current emergency contact information at hand.

School Jackets

Orders for School Jackets will be placed early next year. If you would like a jacket please advise Zoe Weir, School Finance Officer of size required/child's name as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out. Zoe can be contacted by telephoning the Front Office or via email: zoe.weir991@schools.sa.edu.au

Coronavirus: information for schools and parents

Dear Parent/Caregiver

SA Health has provided advice to us about coronavirus, which is occurring in the Hubei Province of China and has also been reported in other parts of mainland China, and several other countries.

Their advice is that students who have travelled to mainland China, including those that have travelled to Hubei Province, are able to return to school unless they are close contacts of a confirmed case, or they have symptoms consistent with the virus. This is described in more detail in the fact sheets from the Australian Government Department of Health at:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-information-for-schools-and-early-childhood-centres>

Those symptoms may include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, and sore throat. All students and staff who have travelled to mainland China, and especially Hubei Province, should monitor themselves for the 14 days from their departure from mainland China for symptoms of coronavirus. The latest advice is available on the Australian Government Department of Health website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

This advice also says people should take general measures to protect against infections including:

- washing hands
- covering mouths while coughing or sneezing
- avoiding contact with wild or farm animals.

We will keep you updated if there is further specific information you need to know.

Regards

Ali Bogle, Principal

Primary News

Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is up and running in each of the Primary classes. Teachers will regularly post information and send messages through Class Dojo. If any parent is not on Class Dojo please use the information sheet provided by teachers to link up with your child's class. Students in Years 1-5 will regularly post work onto their personal profile pages on Class Dojo. Teachers will use the app for recording positive behaviours. If anyone has trouble linking into Class Dojo please bring your device to school and teachers will help set it up.

Reading

Students are asked to read each evening. The reception students will bring home library books for parents to read to them. Reading is the single most important ability that children can do to improve learning outcomes in all curriculum areas. Making reading an enjoyable experience is one of our most important aims.

Acquaintance Night

Each of the teachers have sent home a Welcome letter this week with some general information. Acquaintance Night will be held on the 12th of February where Primary class teachers will present information about lessons, subjects and general expectations. In the meantime, if parents have any questions please contact your child's teacher through Class Dojo, via a phone message or by catching up after school.

Middle School News

Greg Hackett, Middle School Coordinator

Hi all,

By the time you read this, all of our new staff and students will have been welcomed to within an inch of their lives. Early observations are that all students have found some familiar faces to 'buddy' up with and are settling in well to the world of MDS.

Week 1 will no-doubt see a lot of 'administrivia' from both care groups and subjects meaning that students and families will need to read lots of information, respond to notes, return paperwork and acknowledge rules/guidelines, plans etc. I trust that these matters can be handled promptly and efficiently for the betterment of all.

Over the last few years there has been the introduction of some new ideas and processes to assist student learning and holistic development as global citizens. I don't predict many further changes or additions to the list but in the interests of striving for excellence, there may be some 'tweaks' to these things as the year progresses. This means that concepts such as (but not limited to);

- Student Recognition Scheme
- Personal Learning Goals and evaluation
- Growth Mindset
- Developing executive functioning skills
- Deadlines policy
- Homework policy

will continue across the year, with some potential fine-tuning.

Week 9 2019 – Challenge Week

Attached with this bulletin are a few photos from our extremely successful Challenge Week from the end of last year. This edition saw a 'change-up' in the ways in which students were challenged, and saw the scale of some of the challenges build.

Challenge Week is a house-based teams' competition whereby students engage in meaningful learning challenges, across a range of subject and/or Australian Curriculum 'Capability' based challenges. The 'mega lunch' challenge was a highlight, as well as the student-led challenges and the 'craft' challenge.

Staff were innovative in their introduction of new activities for 2019 and the feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive.

Congratulations to SPENCER HOUSE for taking out the 2019 challenges!

2020 MS Camp

While not scheduled until Term 4, by the middle of this term, families will receive some paperwork regarding our camps to Illawonga. Please stay tuned for more information. I will take this opportunity to alert families that this is one of the most affordable camps available and is extremely good value for money. We would dearly love to have each student in the MS attend, but we understand if there are personal circumstances which may prevent this. If finance is an issue, can I please urge you to contact me to discuss the many options we have to enable student attendance. All correspondence and arrangements are completely confidential.

Parent Communication

This week you would have received a letter of introduction from your child's care-group teacher. Can I remind/inform all parents that subject teachers, care group teachers or myself are more than happy to field any specific questions you may have about any part of your child's learning experiences. Please feel free to visit us in person (by appointment only) or contact us via email to discuss any issues should the need arise. Early information sharing or contact can often circumvent more serious issues developing.

We anticipate another successful year ahead in the middle school and welcome your ongoing support and involvement in your child's progress throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Greg Hackett
Coordinator – Middle School



2020 Challenge Week

Senior School Report

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

I'd like to give a warm welcome to the 2020 school year for all Senior School students and their families. By the time you read this, studies will be well under way in most subject areas across the entire Senior School, from year 10 through to year 12.

Firstly I'd like to extend sincere congratulations to the MDS Year 12 class of 2019. The group achieved great results, a true reflection of their hard work over the course of their schooling. Our Dux was Bronwyn Farrow, who achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) of 93.05, followed by John Boundy with an ATAR of 88.85 and Liliana Alafaci with 84.60. All of our students who applied for tertiary study have been offered places; further details will follow in upcoming newsletters. In addition to this we had a 100% SACE completion rate for all eligible students, an absolutely fantastic achievement!

In 2019 we had significant numbers of students undertake studies in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Australian School Based Apprenticeships, all of which contributed to their SACE results. 53% of our 2019 senior students used elements of vocational studies to contribute towards their SACE, including 8 students who used this to complete SACE and 4 who were able to use it to contribute towards an ATAR. In 2020 many students are opting to combine their school studies with valuable training in the VET area. Should you wish to find out more about VET and Pathways offerings, please get in contact with me.

As the students move through Senior School, expectations and work requirements become far more stringent. Teachers in all subject areas will have explained the specifics to students, but should you wish to have additional information then I invite you to email your child's teachers (staff email details are available on the school website); the teachers will be happy to provide you with the information you require including work requirements, programs of work, task sheets and due dates. Please log on to the parent portal in Daymap to keep up to date with your student's program of work. See Tasha Bedding's information in this newsletter if you require assistance with access.

Please feel free to get in contact with me should you have any questions or queries regarding Senior School matters. You can call me at school on 88532 346 or contact me via email at glen.white872@schools.sa.edu.au

Glen White – Senior School Coordinator, SACE & Pathways.

DAYMAP PARENT PORTAL

Daymap Connect is an extension of the Daymap Learning Management System used extensively at MDS and provides parents with access to key school and student information both at home and on the go.

The portal allows parents to create and manage their own accounts for Daymap Connect, requiring only one login and password per parent (with the option to provide multiple logins) to access their child's details.



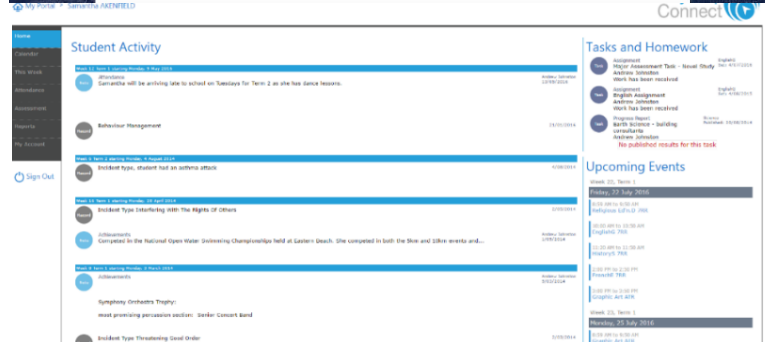
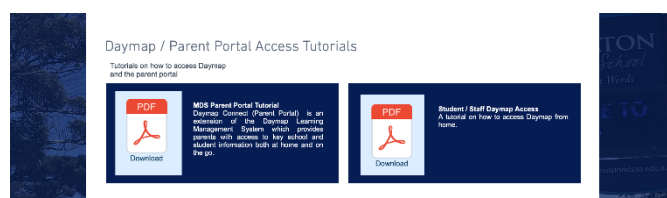
To access the Daymap Connect Parent Portal – head to our website www.minlatonds.sa.edu.au

The parent portal link is located on the right hand side of the home page.



Selecting the ICT Services title in the images gallery on the home page will take parents to the ICT Services page where tutorials on the use of the Parent Portal can be found.

Choose 'DayMap Tutorials' from the menu and select the MDS Parent Portal Tutorial PDF and follow the instructions in the tutorial.



The DayMap Parent Portal allows parents to see all of the information for their students at school including newsletters, to communicate with children's teachers, to see outlines for each curriculum area, as well as timetables, attendance rates, assignments, due dates, assessment results and end of semester reports.

In 2020 we will be adding Australian Curriculum assessment overviews for each subject for students in Years 6-10. This feature will allow parents to visually track their child's progress against the year level achievement standard following each summative assessment task. There will be further details about accessing and interpreting this in the next few weeks.

New parents with a registered email address will shortly receive an email with their DayMap Parent Portal login details.

If you have any issues or questions with using the parent portal, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Tasha Bedding

Deputy Principal

Tasha.bedding610@schools.sa.edu.au

Minlaton District School Governing Council

2020 Nomination Form

I(FULL NAME)

of(ADDRESS)

NOMINATE:

.....(FULL NAME)

of(ADDRESS)

to be elected as a member of Minlaton District School Governing Council.

I(FULL NAME)

of(ADDRESS)

.....(EMAIL ADDRESS)

Accept the nomination and hereby declare that:

I am not an undischarged bankrupt and do not receive a benefit of the law for the relief of insolvent debtors,
I have not been convicted of any offence of dishonesty, or of a sexual nature involving a minor, or of violence against a
person.

I understand that should I be declared bankrupt, receive a benefit of the law for the relief of insolvent debtors or be
convicted of any offence listed my membership of Minlaton District School Governing Council will cease.

Signed: Date: