



### Diary Dates

November	18 <sup>th</sup>	YP concert band tour
		Final 2021 Reception Transition visit
	20 <sup>th</sup>	CASUAL DAY (gold coin donation for Minlaton CFS)
	23/24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 7 – 8 Transition
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 8 Immunisation
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Formal Awards Ceremony
	27 <sup>th</sup>	STUDENT FREE DAY

The term is quickly slipping by and while we may look like we are gliding along smoothly like swans on a tranquil pool, things are moving furiously beneath the surface. Major cinematic action has been taking place as the primary classes film their contribution to our end of year celebration picnic; there has been great excitement and lots of very colourful costumes making their way around the school. All families are welcome to attend the Family Picnic on the Don Snook oval on Thursday December 10<sup>th</sup> where social distancing can be achieved in the great outdoors via the perimeter of your picnic blanket! The Presentation Night committee are putting together invitations to our formal awards presentation which will take place on November 26<sup>th</sup> at the Minlaton Town Hall. Given Covid restrictions, all invitees are asked to RSVP once invitations are received as we are required to have a guest list at the door.

In the last fortnight I have acknowledged a number of reading milestones, and I know that there are many children vying for the title of most crocodiles in the swamp this year! In the R/1 class; Rubi, Deanna, Evie and Sid all achieved a double croc for 200 nights. In the 1/2 class, Oliver, Bridget, and Willow all gained a very hungry crocodile for 100 nights of reading, Alena scored 2 crocodiles for passing 200 nights and there are a couple of avid readers who are sure to hit 300 reading nights before the end of the year. In the 2/3 class, Logan and Tallis gained their 100 night crocs, while Marlie, Halle, Regan and Casey all had to find room for 2 crocs in their swamps. In the 3/4 class, both Alexis and Riley S will also be wrangling some reptiles for 200 nights. Finally in the 4/5 class, a veritable Florida Keyes of crocodiles were distributed to Savannah, Lara and Mackenzie. In the last newsletter you read about the enjoyment our children are gaining from daily reading and it's such a pleasure to see their smiles when milestones are acknowledged. Keep reading team!

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the Department for Education's invitation to complete a parent engagement survey this year. This was the first year that the Department has conducted the parent engagement survey centrally and we were delighted to have responses from 78 parents. It is clear from your responses that you appreciate the variety of ways that you receive communication from the school, with email and newsletters gaining the most favourable responses, and that most of you enjoy the opportunities that you have to have input into your child's learning, both through speaking with staff and also through conversations with your child about what and how they are learning at school. If there are any areas of concern that you have about your child's learning at MDS, please ensure that you make contact so that we can work together to find solutions and ensure that all of our students are maximising their opportunities to learn and grow.

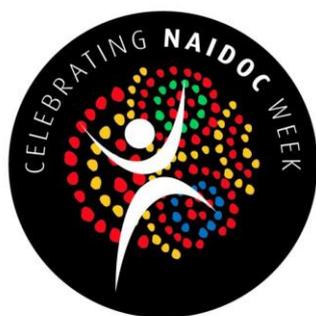
On Monday the fencing was erected around the MDS gym and our builders, Gawler Carpenters and Joiners, are now on site and beginning the first part of the gym refurbishment by replacing the roof. The younger children will no doubt be excited to see the crane on site in the next few weeks as the new long roofing sheets are delivered and lifted into place. For the older students, it will be a perfect opportunity to have a look at some maths and physics in action in the real world, as I'm sure their teachers will be quick to point out! We will attempt to ensure progress on the gym is well documented via Facebook, so stay tuned to our page for updates.

I'm delighted to share that the Colour Fun Run, which was held in Week 1 of this term, raised a total of \$3904. Thank you to all of the families who supported the fundraising aspect of this annual event to raise much needed funds for our school. Money raised will be used to purchase a range of pieces of equipment for the school canteen. We anticipate that we will have prizes ready to distribute to students early next week. If you would prefer to pick up your child's prizes rather than have us distribute to children directly, please contact Zoe by close of business on Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup>.

One of the very recent purchases through the fundraising committee were new sports uniforms to replace our old and quite tatty tops which have served us very well over many years. Thank you to Bec Brown who researched and ordered the new tops which are shown in the photo on page 4, and to all of the members of the committee for their support to our school. I'm sure that our athletes will be keen to take the court in these new, reversible singlets. Roll on some 'normal' sporting opportunities when 2021 comes around!

This week we experienced our first declared day of Extreme Fire Danger, so it is fitting that accompanying this newsletter is the Department's brochure for parents about the coming fire danger season. Of importance to note for Minlaton District School: We are not considered to be a school at high risk and therefore remain open on "Catastrophic Fire Danger" days. The Yorke Peninsula does however have some high risk sites, and therefore our bus services are suspended on days when Catastrophic Danger is declared. When our buses are unable to service their routes, we communicate with families directly through a phone call from your 'bus captain', and through our Facebook page, Class Dojo and email (via our newsletter distribution list). It is of vital importance that families ensure that the school is kept informed of any changes in contact details – **please let the Front Office know urgently if you have changed your address, phone or email address.** In commemoration of the anniversary of the start of the Yorke Peninsula fires in 2019, we are holding a casual day next Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>. Students and staff are asked to provide a gold coin donation, with proceeds going to our local CFS brigade in acknowledgement of their tireless work last summer.

Usually held in July, but postponed due to Covid in 2020, this week we are joining the observation of NAIDOC week, a week-long celebration in which the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are celebrated by all Australians. This week also, at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, we paused to reflect on the great sacrifices made by many in the theatre of war. In the spirit of NAIDOC week, this year we focussed particularly on the Indigenous Australians who have served our country and shared their stories with our students. One minute of silence was observed across the school to show our respect and gratitude.



**Always Was,  
Always Will Be.**  
**8-15 NOV 2020**

An opportunity too good to miss! Minlaton District School has been offered 2 full scholarship places for two students, 13 – 17 years old to participate in a 10 week entrepreneurial program to launch their own passion business/project. There is a considerable time commitment for the program which will begin in February 2021, but students will get hands-on experience with innovative business tools, meet new collaborators and practise workplace skills. We have been asked to nominate two students with an interest in entrepreneurship, design thinking who are able to undertake self-directed learning. Scholarships will be offered on a first come first serve basis – so if you think this is something for your child, please contact me as soon as possible.

To read more information about the program, please go to this [website](#).

Ali

## MDS Sports News

---

### SYP Hot Shots Tennis Carnival

---

Craig Fitzgerald

Last week, sixteen extremely eager Year 3 and 4 students journeyed to Yorketown to partake in the second staging of the SYP Hot Shots Tennis Carnival. The event was organised by Tennis SA and aimed at encouraging anyone to attempt tennis, no matter what their previous experience in the sport was. Six schools attended with over 70 students participating.

MDS was able to send two teams. One team was made up of Annabelle Cook, Brianna Warrior, Darcy Walsh, Jayla Weir, Lowan Coe, Max Hamilton, Nicholas Preedy and Riley Menz, while the other team comprised of Angus Coote, Carolyn Spiers, Charlie Borgmeyer, Charlie Phillips, Ellie Polkinghorne, Georgina Brown, Olivia Cook and Xavier Cook.

Both teams demonstrated good skills on the modified courts and with the modified equipment. They exhibited good team work and sportsmanship also. Annabelle and Angus were awarded with a 'Good Sport Award' for their efforts during the day.



### ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Racquet Roadshow

---

Craig Fitzgerald

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, James Pick from Tennis SA attended the school to provide the students in Kelly Coe's R/1 class with a free tennis racquet and a tennis lesson. This is part of the ANZ Tennis Hot Shots Racquet Roadshow. Over 170,000 new tennis racquets have been delivered to students since the program began in 2015. Thanks to ANZ Bank, Tennis Australia and Tennis SA for their support in the program. The ANZ Tennis Hot Shots program is currently in progress at Minlaton Tennis Club but will be run again next year. It will be advertised in the school newsletter prior to the event.

Please contact Kristy Coombe on 0407 798 333 for further information and to register your interest.



## SAPSASA State Golf Championships

Josh Coombe

Last week Noah McDonnell and Hamish Coombe competed in the SAPSASA State Golf Championships at Adelaide Shores golf complex. The boys were awarded the honor of playing due to their impressive qualifying scores at the district qualifying event in August at Maitland.

Over 140 competitors tackled the Par 50 Executive course on the Thursday with the top 40 in the field playing on the championship course the next day. The rest of the field played the Executive course again on the Friday.

Based on their results, Noah and Hamish played both of their rounds on the Executive course. Noah was a model of consistency, carding 84 off the stick in both rounds. Hamish took some time to adjust to the fast greens, carding 98 on Day 1 and 102 on Day 2.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to play competitive golf on a greens course and are very keen to give it another crack next year.



## New MDS School Sport Uniforms

Craig Fitzgerald

New reversible uniforms arrived at MDS to be worn in various Middle School zone sports carnivals. Thanks to Bec Brown and the fundraising committee for organising the fantastic uniforms. We are looking forward to wearing the new outfits at events in 2021.

## Middle School Update

Greg Hackett, Middle School Coordinator

Hi all,

### MS Camps -

By now all paperwork has been distributed for our camps for week 8. Many of them have already been returned, but can I remind everyone of our deadlines – permissions paperwork needs to be back **by Friday of this week 13<sup>th</sup> November** while payments need to be finalised no later than **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November (week 7)**.

There has been some small confusion over some of the forms to be signed. Please sign the bus form – I'm aware of the wording of the document, but was asked by the organisers to ensure it was signed by families. Hopefully the weather will now cooperate with us and it's a great week for all involved.

### Bake-off Winner -

A hearty congratulations to **Layla Walsh** for her fine achievement in being our winner of the term three 'Cupcake Bake-off'. Again, competition was tight, but the judges were up to the task! Again, well done to the group of seven young ladies and one young gent, who took up the challenge and brought some fun and excitement to the MS last term.

First – Layla Walsh – 38.7 points.  
Second - Lucy Mahar – 38.5 points  
Third - Natalie Horn + Eleanor Brown – 36.4 points.

Some of their fine work is pictured with this report.



### Work Experience for Year 9s –

By now all year 9 students who are eligible and keen to undertake work experience should have met with Mr White and organised paperwork and other arrangements. Can parents please ensure that Care Group teachers and I are kept in the loop. Well done to the half-dozen or so students that have expressed an interest in this opportunity. It's a great chance to get out into the 'real world' and gain some valuable experiences, which may set students up for their post-school lives.

### Parent Contact -

If you have specific matters for subject or Care Group teachers, please contact them directly. I am always more than happy to discuss matters with parents and welcome any questions concerns or feedback.

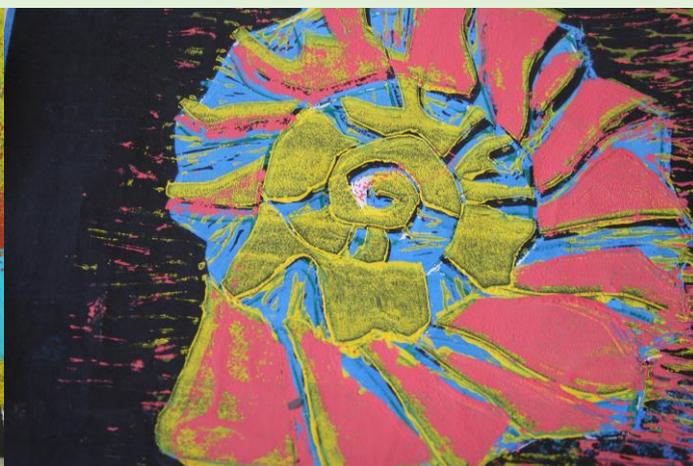
Kind Regards,

**Greg Hackett.**

Coordinator – Middle School.

Middle School Personal Interest

Greg Hackett



## Senior School Report

Glen White, senior School Coordinator

By the time that you read this, all of our Year 12 students will have completed their studies and be off into the big world outside MDS. Well done folks and all the best. That does mean however that our Year 11s are now the big kids on the block – better get used to it!

Year 10 & 11 students will be undertaking final assessments up until early week 7, however all assessment tasks must be submitted **no later than 3pm Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> of November**. In those subjects where there is no final test, all teachers will be providing relevant, engaging subject specific learning activities as part of their regular teaching and learning program. It is timely to remind students that the successful completion of subjects currently being studied provides a solid foundation for future learning. **Therefore, should a student not satisfactorily complete their course requirements in any senior subject, they will be ineligible for work experience or exemptions and must attend school where they will be provided with the opportunity to successfully complete these subjects in order to move up to the next year level.** Should a student be unsuccessful when provided this opportunity, then their promotion to the next year level will be closely reviewed. Contact is currently being made with parents and students who have recently been identified as at risk.

During week 7, all 2021 year 11 and 12 students will undertake a transition program. The aim of the program is to provide students with an understanding of course requirements and expectations, to experience a snapshot of what they are in for and potentially allow them to reflect on subject choices, undertake administrative requirements and build the requisite skills for success next year. (There may even be a BBQ... no guarantees though). It is a compulsory activity and an outline will be provided to parents via their students early next week.

In addition, during this period, a work experience preparation course will be run online for all students undertaking a placement at the end of the term. This is mandated by the Department for Education and students will be unable to undertake work experience without successful completion of this training. The final formal day of senior school programs for 2020 is Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

### Changes to the VET in Schools Policy

The government is in the process of releasing new policy around vocational training in schools. A draft report has been released and I'm currently involved in a Principal & VET Leader's advisory group investigating the implementation of this policy. Whilst the policy itself is still in draft form it is likely to impact significantly on the delivery and access to VET courses across the state. As a result, I will be in contact with relevant parents and students over the next couple of days to provide guidance around how to move forward. There is never a dull moment in the world of Vocational Education!

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

## Stage 1 English

Sarah Rothe

Stage 1 English text creation involved students looking at children's literature, analysing the language features and stylistic techniques used in picture books, then manipulating them to create their own. Part of their assessment is testing their creations with an authentic audience. They shared their creations with Mrs Coe's and Mrs Cox's junior primary classes. It was very successful with all students engaging and younger students providing feedback, then eagerly showing older students their reading skills.



## Yr 10 Outdoor Education High Ropes Course

Craig Fitzgerald

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the Year 10 Outdoor Education class travelled to Woodhouse Activity Centre to participate in the High Ropes Course. This was the final excursion for the semester, as part of the practical component of the course. The students were involved in rock climbing, a 300m zip line and various high ropes obstacles in amongst the trees. The group worked well together to overcome challenges and work as part of a team. The excursion was also supported by RIF funding, reducing the costs for all involved.

Student comments:

Cooper Newbold – “The High Ropes Course was a great life experience. My favourite part would have been the leap of faith and zip lining, I enjoyed this because it pushed me outside my comfort zone.”

Archie Campion – “The High Ropes Course was a great experience. It was a great challenging day with our school mates to face our fears and work together. My favourite part was the zip line because it was fun and exhilarating. I also liked the leap of faith even though I wasn't able to hold on to it, it gave me a real sense of achievement.”

Matthew Walsh – “Woodhouse Activity Centre was a great experience to get over your fears and have a good time.”

Saxon Underwood – “The trip to Woodhouse Activity Centre was a lot of fun. The activities were exciting going from rock climbing to the flying fox then to the high ropes course amongst the trees. The instructors were friendly and encouraged us to push to do more than we were limiting ourselves to.”

Mavrik Harper-Zerna – “The trip was very enjoyable because we completed activities that most of us hadn't done before. It was a little frightening doing the high ropes because you were relying on other people to keep you up and the obstacles were very unsteady.”



## From the Library

Rick Cook, Teacher/Librarian

Premier's Reading Challenge medallions and certificates arrived and were presented in Week 3. Well done to the 135 MDS students who completed the Challenge this year. Many of our students comment on how they don't find the 'Challenge' all that challenging which I think is a fantastic endorsement of the quality and capability of our readers at this school. This year Primary library lessons have focused on every student learning how to find the right book for them. A big part of this process has been encouraging students to talk to each other about the books they are reading. In late Term 3 I conducted a reading survey with our year 3-5 students and was really pleased to see how engaged our students are in their reading. The biggest difficulty many of our students face seems to be picking what to read next – but as they are learning to talk about their reading preferences we are seeing students with more and more ideas because they have had recommendations from classmates. Some of our expert readers are now going out of their way to be the first to read a book that others have overlooked so that they can be the one to recommend it to their classmates. As parents, we can help with this process by quizzing our kids about what they are reading, what genre it is, the things they like about it etc. Also, never underestimate the power of a child seeing their parent engaged in some form of reading.

Keep turning pages everyone! Mr Cook.





To request an appointment online, go to:  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/dentalappointment)  
For clinic locations, go to: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/findyourclinic](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/findyourclinic)

## Beachside Christian Church

We are holding an informal service on the lawn area, south of the amenities – Port Vincent Foreshore on

*Sunday 22nd November*

Live Music - Singing - Testimonies - Games for children

Everyone is welcome.

Bring a chair or rug to sit on.



VACSWIM is South Australia's longest running summer holiday program giving your kids confidence in & around water!

**December 2020 &  
January 2021**

Programs held at  
120 pool & beach locations.

Enrol online at  
[vacswimsa.com.au](http://vacswimsa.com.au)

Dec closing: 2nd Dec  
Jan closing: 20th Dec

Minlaton District Community  
& Sports Centre

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**15th November  
1pm**

**Minlaton Town Oval**

An interactive tour with members of the development committee. They will be there to explain all the exciting progress that has been made for the planning of our community facility.

