



Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Issue 13
8th August 2019

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



It's been a high paced beginning to Term 3 with a lot happening both for students and our staff! On Sunday our Fun-raising Committee ably supported by Baristas, Nat Blyth and Harry Wilson operating the school's coffee machine, supplied coffee and sweet treats at the Harry Butler event at the aerodrome outside Minlaton. My very grateful thanks to Carolyn Bennett, Lee Blyth, Rebecca Brown, Kristy Coombe, Kimberley Hamilton, Rhani Newbold, Kristen Wilson and their families(!) for both providing the amazing array of delectable goodies and serving customers all day at the event. We made a profit of over \$1200 on the day, which is a wonderful contribution to our gym redevelopment fund.

Please see the calendar side panel for a couple of very important dates – the first being tomorrow, Friday August 9th, when we will NOT be operating a canteen service. Please ensure that your child/ren come to school with a packed recess and lunch as they will not be able to purchase over the counter or order lunches. The second date to draw to your attention is Monday August 19th, which is a student free day to allow staff at MDS to engage in professional development. Circle this date on your calendar now!

The Senior building continues to take shape and we hope to have a roof on by the end of next week. It's fabulous for our students to see the builders at work and note all of the elements that need to combine to create a new space for learning. Last Wednesday there were four different trades and 12 workers within the compound, all busy with their own tasks but working harmoniously alongside one another. For the duration of the build, we are keeping our main gate locked after hours as manoeuvring within the grounds is quite difficult given the compound in the middle of the main quadrangle. Keep your eye on our Facebook page for photos of the building's progress.

This Friday, Climbing Tree, a company who specialises in creating outdoor learning environments, takes possession of the northern oval and gully area for the next 5 – 6 weeks. We have been planning this redevelopment for a number of years, so to finally have people on the ground creating the new play structures is quite exciting. Children will have to get used to some new 'out of bounds' areas for the duration of the works, and we have altered our yard duty areas to accommodate this. We will be a bit restricted for a while – but the end result will be worth it! Stay tuned for the call to assist toward the end of the term when a couple of working bees will hopefully finish off the pathways and plantings to link our 'outdoor learning zones'.

Diary Dates

August

9 th	CANTEEN CLOSED
13 th	Governing Council Mtg 7.30pm
15 th	Book Club, Library 7pm
19 th	STUDENT FREE DAY
19 th -23 rd	Book Week Careers Excursion Yr 10
20 th	Book Week Parade 9.15am
21 st	Primary Assembly, 2.10pm Gym
22 nd	R/1 Visit to Kindy

REMINDER Canteen Closure: Please be advised that the canteen will not operate on Friday August 9th. All students will need to bring lunch and recess with them on this day.



Planning for the 2020 academic year is well underway and we are looking carefully at what subjects we are able to offer and what additional staffing we require in order to provide a comprehensive curriculum for our students. Once again I seek parent support to ensure we have information about our student numbers upon which to base our future decisions. If there are any changes to your families whereabouts, or you know of other families who will be looking to enrol at MDS, please let us know as soon as possible.

Have a great weekend.

Ali



Responding to Abuse & Neglect Online Training

If you are a volunteer and require a RAN training, this is now offered as an online course.

What you need before you start

- A current individual email address.
- A computer or mobile with an internet connection.
- A recent web browser, like Google Chrome, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Register for a plink account

- Go to the website: <https://www.plink.sa.edu/pages/signup.jsf>
- Fill in your details:
- In the field "Select Account type" select Volunteer
- Enter your email address (this will be your plink username), choose a password, and type in your name.
- Select "I accept the terms of use and code of ethics"
- Select "Create Account"

Start the training

- Select the course "Responding to Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care online course for volunteers"
- Select "Register"
- Select "Register" again
- Select "Open Module" when you're ready to start

For any further help/enquiries please phone the help desk on 8179 1400.

YP Art Exhibition, Anne Mayadunne

Once again we have the opportunity to take part in the Yorke Peninsula Art Exhibition in 2020. We can only enter 4 pieces per category. The categories include Reception to year 2, year 3 to 6, year 7 to 9, and year 10 to 12. These may include paintings and drawings (traditional or abstract). Please let me know if your child wishes to take part. We usually get a large number and go through a selection process. If you would like more information, please contact me at anne.mayadunne292@schools.sa.edu.au Anne Mayadunne

SAPSASA Sport

Craig Fitzgerald

Knockout Boys Basketball

On Friday, 26th July, the Yorke Peninsula Open Basketball team participated in the School Sport SA Knockout Competition. The Yorke Peninsula teams are a combination of the majority of schools in our region, other than those who nominate their own team for the knockout competitions. Jesse Stanley was the Minlaton representative who was selected in the Yorke Peninsula team for the carnival at Tanunda and he performed well with some great shooting throughout the day. The team lost to Kadina, Nuriootpa and Glossop (in overtime) and defeated Faith Lutheran in the final match of the day. The side competed well and had some close matches, eventually finishing 4th overall. Yorke Peninsula wore their new zone basketball uniforms for the first time. Thanks to Kris Daddow for coaching the team and Jodie Stanley who helped umpire the matches.



Knockout Open Girls Basketball

On Wednesday 31st July, Georgina Farrow and Charli McIntosh-Whitehouse represented Yorke Peninsula in the School Sport SA Open Girls Basketball. The girls were competing in the Open A division after previously performing well in B division. The first match in the knockout competition was played against Trinity College in the STARplex complex. In an entertaining encounter, the side kept ahead for the majority of the match, with some excellent shooting late by Georgina and Charli helping the side to a nail-biting 1 point victory. The team now progresses to the Finals on Wednesday August 14th at Wayville and will face some tough opposition against Immanuel, Mercedes, Henley, Tenison Woods and Eastern Fleurieu. Good luck girls.



Knockout Netball – Open and 8/9

On Friday 2nd August, Georgina Farrow, Bronwyn Farrow, Charli McIntosh-Whitehouse, Nikki Hoyle and Sophie Longbottom represented Yorke Peninsula in the Open Girls Knockout Netball, with Madi Brunton in the Year 8/9 team. Both carnivals were held at Trinity College. Thanks to Shayla Vince for organising and coaching the Open side and Lauren Smith for the 8/9 team. Also thanks to Lynda Farrow, Shan Longbottom and Simone Brunton for supporting the team and transporting the students to the netball carnival.



Open Results:

The team finished in 3rd position with 2 wins, 2 losses and 1 draw. The girls lost the first match to Trinity College by 12 goals, defeated St Mark's by 4 goals in game 2 and then had an entertaining draw against Faith Lutheran. In the final two matches of the day, the side defeated Kadina (41-11) and then lost to Nuriootpa (34-25). All girls performed well and represented MDS and Yorke Peninsula with pride.



8/9 Results:

The 8/9 girls played very well as a team throughout the carnival and managed to finish with 4 wins and 1 loss for the day to finish in second position overall. The wins were against St Mark's, Kadina, Nuriootpa and Faith Lutheran. The only loss for the day was to Trinity College, who now progress to the Finals of the statewide knockout competition. Madi played well throughout the carnival and was an important member of the team in defence.

SAPSASA Yr 6/7 District Basketball

Josh Coombe SAPSASA Coordinator

Minlaton's up-and-coming junior basketballers took to the courts last Wednesday for the annual SAPSASA District Carnival. We entered teams in the 6/7 girls and the 6/7 boys competitions.

The girls team (comprising Madi-Lee Ryan, Eleanor Brown, Layla Walsh, Lucy Mahar, Natalie Horn, Shantelle Modra and Tayah Dunstone) had a character-building day winning one match and losing four to finish fifth in the competition. They were a young team with only one Year 7 involved but they impressed with their endeavour and attitude in all matches. Most of their matches were tight contests, so the win-loss ratio doesn't adequately reflect how competitive they were. Thanks to Rebecca Brown for coaching the girls and to Luke Horn for umpiring. Thanks also to Megan Mahar and Amanda Horn for scoring.

6/7 girls results – defeated Curramulka/Stansbury 12-10; lost to Maitland Lutheran 4-9; lost to Warooka 9-13; lost to Central Yorke 6-19; lost to Yorketown 8-12

The boys (Freddie Wilson, Oscar Parsons, Joe Rothe, Kalan Modra, Henry Coote, Cooper Mullen and Will Ryan) had a mixed day results wise. The boys won three of their six matches to finish fourth for the carnival. Interestingly, the boys won all of their matches inside but lost all of their matches on the outside court. Like the girls, they exhibited a good team spirit all day and displayed tenacity and fight when challenged. Massive thank you to Kristen and Peter Wilson for coaching and umpiring respectively and to Philippa Coote for scoring all day.

6/7 boys results – defeated St Columba's 29-10; defeated Central Yorke 17-15; defeated Maitland Lutheran Yellow 20-4; lost to Maitland Lutheran Blue 7-29; lost to Warooka 11-16; lost to Curramulka/Stansbury 14-20.

Thanks also to the Minlaton Basketball Stadium for hosting the day and providing canteen facilities.



Primary News

Barb Agnew, Primary Coordinator

Reading

There are so many of the primary students who are now reading novels. Many of the students are independent readers and are not only reading for 15-20 minutes each night for homework but they are choosing to read longer in their leisure time. Parents can still play a part in their children's reading time by discussing aspects of their books with them. Following are several questions that will prompt dialogue.

- Who are the main characters?
- What was the main problem of the story and how was it solved?
- How did one of the main characters change during the story?
- Do you know anyone like the main character in the story? Are you like the main character? In what ways?
- What do you predict will happen next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose the title for the story?
- Which character from the story would you choose to have as your friend and why?
- Which part of the story was the most exciting and why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or why not?

Even when children can read independently, it's still good to read to them. It is great to share books and stories together. Parents could choose books that may be a challenge for the child to read or it could be a book that deals with a sensitive topic. Reading children's classics like 'Treasure Island' by RL Stevenson or 'Peter Pan' by JM Barrie is also an option.

Primary Assembly

There will be a Primary Assembly on Wednesday the 21st of August at 2:10pm in the gym. The Yr 5 students will be hosting the assembly. Please come along and see what we have been doing in dance. We will be sharing a variety of work from each of the classes. Parents, grandparents and care givers are all welcome.

Senior School Update

Glen White, Senior School Coordinator

It has been a steady start to the term in the Senior School; our Year 10-12 students are really doing some impressive work across all subject areas. In most aspects of life, the amount of success is directly proportional to the effort and work put into it. It is much the same here at school. As we move towards the pointy end of the year for our students it is important to remind students and parent/care givers that hard work, application to task and a willingness to work outside of the comfort zone are the key factors in ensuring success here at school. Going hand in hand with that is a realistic understanding of what that success may mean for the individual and a willingness to accept personal responsibility, rather than blaming others when things don't go as we would like them to. We have a fantastic culture here at MDS, which encourages all students to be the best that they can be, supported by our passionate and experienced staff; let's ensure that we all continue to work together towards our ultimate end goal – having students complete school smiling and with as many different pathways open to them as possible; something we have an incredible record for doing.

Mobile Phones in the senior school at MDS

There has been much publicity in recent weeks around mobile phone bans of varying types across a range of educational sectors in Australia and overseas. This is nothing entirely new for us here at MDS. Since the mid-way point of last year we have implemented a scheme where at the beginning of each day senior students are required to place their

mobile phones in a lockable box. These boxes are then secured in the study room for the school day. At the end of the day students take their phones from the box. Students who leave early may collect their phone as they leave; students who arrive late are to organise to have their phones secured as soon as practicable after their arrival at school. Parents are able to contact their students, as per our long term policy via the front office.

The reasoning behind this is based on recent research from educational experts such as Dr Pasi Sahlberg and Dr Michael Carr-Greg among others, who suggest that the use of smart phones within schools can lead to increased distraction from learning, with evidence pointing to improved academic and social outcomes when students do not use their phones during the school day. When you consider that the average person checks their phone 74 times during the day (approximately every 12 minutes) the link between decreased classroom distraction and improved student performance is clear. Additionally other researchers have found that the continual checking may create a condition known as "digital dementia" where the brain's internal circuitry is re-wired leading to decreased attention span, a decline in working and short-term memory and potentially negative impacts on emotional wellbeing.

Should students require their phone for a legitimate educational purpose they are able to access it during lesson time and return it as soon as they have finished using it. However there are limited occasions when this is required.

Careers Week 2019

This is scheduled for week 4 on the school calendar (19-23 August), a more detailed report (with photos) will follow in the week 7 newsletter; parents should note that for any students unable to attend there are no scheduled classes for Year 10 students for the duration of the week. These students are required to be at school and will be provided with work to complete in the study room.

Review of VET in Schools

In recent weeks the Department have been conducting a review into all aspects of VET (Vocational Education & Training) in schools. At MDS we have a long and successful history of students undertaking a range of vocational training options aimed at providing students a head start into the world of work with nationally recognised qualifications, whilst still enabling them to complete the school based aspects of their education. It is a valuable pathway for many students with the skills gathered while studying VET at MDS enabling them to transition very successfully into career pathways of their choice, including full-time apprenticeships. Some statistics which may be of interest – in the previous 5 years 24.16% of MDS students have achieved the SACE and would not have done so without their VET studies (versus 18.43% in the state) and 54.22% of MDS students have undertaken VET as a part of their SACE (versus 42.2% in the state).

The Department have identified that within the state there are some issues with the delivery of VET in schools, these are something that they would definitely like to address as there is a significant skill shortage across Australia, with VET training being the ideal way to combat this. Again, some interesting statistics supplied by DfE: The median fulltime income of a VET graduate is \$2000 higher than a graduate with a Bachelor degree, 78% of VET graduates find employment straight from their training (92% in the case of trade apprenticeship graduates) and students engaged in apprenticeship training have the highest reported levels of wellbeing of all post-school pathways. The Department are investigating issues to with the following:

- the perception of VET in schools
- Accessibility of VET training, especially for rural and regional students
- The quality of VET training courses and providers available
- The relevance of VET training for a student's school and post-school pathways

While the general public consultation period has passed, we would greatly appreciate our school community's feedback on these issues, in order for us to be able to liaise with the Department to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. If you have any feedback on these (or other) issues related to VET for MDS students, please send them through to the email address at the end of this report.

Interviews and Course Counselling

Some dates to be aware of this term:

- Interviews with individual subject teachers following semester 1 reports are available upon request

- Year 12 Learning Conversations occurred across weeks 2 & 3 of Term 3
- Updated Subject Selection Handbooks will be available online from Week 5 of Term 3
- Interim Reporting will occur in week 5 of Term 3, reports published to Daymap early week 6
- Subject information and selection evenings will occur in Week 7 of Term 3, information will be sent home in week 5

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

From the Library

Rick Cook, Teacher/Librarian

There will be a dress up day on Tuesday of Week 5 to celebrate Book Week at MDS. The theme is around superpowers so you can come as your favourite superhero or villain, another book character with special powers, a character you have made up yourself, or just a character from a book who you consider to be your hero. Start thinking about what you will come as if you haven't already! This is always a fun day that celebrates the characters that make reading books – and writing books, so enjoyable. As always there will be prizes for those costumes judged to be the best by the judges on the day.

The Premier's Reading Challenge is coming to an end on Friday, September 6 (week 7). Loads of students have already completed the Challenge this year – well done! For those who haven't, there is still time but it's getting short. Parents, if you are unsure whether your child has finished the Challenge please see your child's teacher or Mr Cook in the Library for clarification – each teacher runs the Challenge differently. If you have been in the Library of late you may have noticed students popping up as superheroes on our walls in recognition of their completion of the Challenge for this year.

Parents of R-4 students don't forget to send your child's Library bag with them on their library borrowing day so that they can borrow from the wonderful collection of books and DVDs we have in the Library. This borrowing is very important because the books in the library are written to be high interest and are great for vocabulary building. Classroom home readers are critically important for developing the *skill* of reading but library books, if chosen well are important to develop the *love* of reading. Library bags are required for our younger students in order to protect the books from damage. A library bag need be nothing fancier than a cloth re-usable shopping bag. If you are looking for a library bag the Library has school branded bags available for \$2. Thank you for supporting your child's learning in this way.



Pastoral Care Update

Ellen Burford, Pastoral care Worker/SSO

Headspace Workshops

What is mental health? How can you tell your friend is struggling? Where can I go for help? These are some of the questions our Year 7-12 students discussed and had answered last Wednesday during a fantastic workshop run by Headspace. I was pretty impressed by how much our students already knew about taking care of themselves and others! I'd encourage you to have a chat with your child/ren about their experience of the workshop. It's really important we can talk openly about things that are sometimes difficult so we're more likely to reach out when we really need it.

Our excellent presenter will be coming back on Thursday of Week 10 to present her last workshop about bullying. But that's not all! Parents and caregivers, a workshop just for you will be happening in the library on Thursday 26th September too. More details will be out soon, but in the meantime the Headspace website is well worth a visit for information and support: www.headspace.org.au

Music at lunchtimes

A year or two ago a few of our students had a tradition of playing music together at lunchtimes once a week. In the words of S Club 7, it's time to bring it all back to you! As of this week I will be in the old music room on Wednesdays at lunch to "jam" with any Year 8-12 students who are keen. Unfortunately I have zero musical ability, but I expect to learn a lot from the Mozarts, Adeles and Stevie Wonders among our student body.

As always, please get in touch if I can be of any support, if you have a fun idea to share or you simply want to say hi! Ellen.



Congratulations to former student Hannah Noonan (class of 2017), who has been awarded the prestigious EDJ Symon Bursary and the Lady White Bursary for accommodation in 2019 at St Ann's College. Well done Hannah!



MINLATON DENTAL & DENTURE CLINIC

Minlaton Dental and Denture Clinic is committed to caring for children's smiles and their overall dental health. We know how important a great smile is for a child's confidence and we are passionate about educating children from an early age about the advantages of looking after their teeth and gums.

We are excited to announce our participation in the Child Dental Benefits Scheme, which provides eligible children with \$1000 dental services over 2 years.

What is Child Dental Benefits Schedule

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS) is a scheme run by Medicare that provides eligible children up to \$1,000 over 2 calendar years to pay for a range of dental services. It's aimed at families who are already receiving other benefits, such as Family Tax Benefit A payments.

If your child is eligible, the CDBS will cover dental services including examinations, routine cleaning, repairing cracked teeth, fillings and root canals. It doesn't cover orthodontic treatment (such as braces to straighten crooked teeth), any dental work that needs to be done in hospital, or cosmetic dental procedures (such as replacing missing teeth).

Who is eligible?

The CDBS is for children aged 2 to 17 who are eligible for Medicare.

Eligibility is assessed at the beginning of the calendar year. You or your child have to meet the requirements for at least one day of the year. If you or your child become eligible during the calendar year (for example, if your child turns 2 during the year), they will receive a payment for the whole year. Any money you don't spend in the first year will be carried over to the second year.

You can check on the [Child Dental Benefits Schedule](https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule) website whether your child is eligible.

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/child-dental-benefits-schedule>

Make an Appointment with us Today!

Phone: 08 8853 2268

Minlaton Basketball AGM is going to be held on Monday 19th August at the Basketball Stadium at 7:30pm. Interested players, coaches or supporters please attend.

Young Endeavour Youth Scheme



Are you 16 to 23 years old?
Looking for a challenge?

Don't miss the adventure of a lifetime sailing *Young Endeavour*. Cast off, set the sails, and join the crew for an amazing voyage along the Australian coast and beyond.

www.youngendeavour.gov.au

1800 020 444
mail@youngendeavour.gov.au

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR YOUTH SCHEME
EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

The CFS are currently organising our winter series of Firey Women Bushfire Safety Workshops across South Australia. Are you, or any women you know, interested in becoming a Firey Woman? The CFS has developed this unique award winning workshop which is designed to provide women with a comforting setting to learn new skills; all with the aim of helping women to protect their families and livelihoods. It is a FREE workshop. Some of the topics covered in our workshop include: understanding bushfire behaviour; understanding the daily bushfire ratings and CFS warning messages; preparing yourself emotionally and physically; preparing a survival kit; help with creating your bushfire survival plan. We really hope you will consider joining us at one of these workshops. If you have any older teenage girls/women in your life, who would like to come along, they would be welcomed with open arms. (While we would love to be able to accommodate children, it is not really a suitable environment for littlies).

The workshops are taking place: Yorketown – Saturday 31 August & Sunday 1 September

As workshop dates and locations are confirmed you can find out more information on the [community events](#) page on our website.

Please email CFSCommunityEngagementSupport@sa.gov.au with your details and a Community Engagement Officer will be in touch with you. We look forward to welcoming you!