

NEWSLETTER



From the Principal

Dear families and friends of MDS,

I trust you had a wonderful Easter weekend and enjoyed the perfect weather with family and loved ones. The weekend gave me an opportunity to test out my roof top tent in some of the locations down the bottom end of the Peninsula. We truly live in a beautiful part of the world!

Strengthening Public Education on the Yorke Peninsula

As a proponent of public education, I am grateful for all the support and enrolments our school receives. We are very proud of our school, in particular our schools Facebook page. It has been wonderful to showcase the various successes and opportunities our student's experience. Beyond what is highlighted in these posts we have so much more going on behind the scenes.

Throughout 2023 the principals of the three 'area' schools on the Southern Yorke Peninsula (Ardrossan Area School, Central Yorke School and Yorketown Area School) and myself worked closely together developing connections and planning on how we could enhance the opportunities and experiences students at our schools have. For example, young people across our schools entering Years 10-12 in 2024 had over 50 subject options to choose from. By working together, we are able to offer a broader selection of courses that then enable our students to follow their dreams in a manner comparable to a large secondary cohort without losing that personal country approach. Even a cursory glance at SACE achievement shows that this personalised approach is hugely successful.

The collaboration across schools is not just having a positive impact in the senior school, we are seeing benefits from our school collaboration from Reception to Year 12. Professional learning and our improvement work is enhanced by the inclusion of our colleagues from neighbouring schools. Our Middle School leaders across the YP are looking into how engagement can be improved across Years 6 to 9 and are developing ideas to trial later this year. All schools are committed to improving literacy and numeracy (this is the role of every school!) however, we are all aware of the critical importance of developing students as expert learners. Programs such as The Resilience Project and Youth Opportunities are being used across several of our sites and we are exploring how together, we can get the very best from our students using these programs.

Technology: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

Another positive aspect of the principals of our four schools working together is using our combined wisdom to address issues/opportunities that impact children and young people across the Peninsula. We regularly attend conferences together and discuss the impact for our sites. One of those we recently attended was looking at ethical and privacy concerns of technology. In an era where digital technology permeates every aspect of our lives, its influence on children and young people is profound and multifaceted. While the digital world opens up vast horizons of knowledge, connectivity and creativity, it also presents a spectrum of challenges that cannot be ignored. Among these, privacy concerns, the impact of screen time on sleep, and the rising tide of digital addiction stand out as critical areas requiring our attention.

The digital era has transformed the landscape of how we access information, communicate, and educate. It's undeniable that technology facilitates vast horizons of knowledge, enhanced connectivity, and unparalleled creative outlets. Yet, this digital revolution is a double-edged sword. The concerns surrounding privacy, the consequences of prolonged screen time on sleep, and the looming threat of digital addiction are areas that demand our urgent attention.

Digital literacy is now fundamental, paralleling the importance of traditional reading and writing skills. According to recent studies, over 95% of teenagers have access to a smartphone, many experiencing near-constant online presence. This connectivity, while fostering a global sense of community and shared experiences, also introduces significant pitfalls. The digital world is full of distractions, misleading information, and potential exposure to harmful content. Moreover, the issue of the digital divide intensifies inequalities, with not all students having equal access to technology and the internet.

The privacy of our young people in the interconnected world of social media, online gaming, and educational platforms is increasingly vulnerable. Sharing personal information, from family photos to real-time locations on social media, can lead to serious breaches of privacy, including cyberbullying, identity theft, and unsolicited contact from strangers. The concept of digital footprints — the data trail left online — underscores the lasting implications of shared information, which is difficult to retract and may impact future opportunities and personal security.

An aspect often overlooked in the digital discourse is the impact of technology on sleep. Sleep is critical to healthy development, with studies indicating its significant role in physical and mental health. The allure of screens, particularly before bedtime, poses a substantial risk to sleep quality. The blue light emitted by devices can disrupt the natural sleep cycle, affecting melatonin production and, consequently, sleep patterns. The correlation between excessive screen time and sleep-related issues among young individuals is evident.

To navigate these challenges, we advocate for a comprehensive approach to digital well-being:

- **Open Dialogue:** It's crucial to foster open discussions about digital experiences, highlighting the importance of online respect and the ability to discern credible sources of information.
- **Set Boundaries:** Implementing limits on daily screen time and establishing tech-free zones can enhance offline interaction and contribute to restful sleep.
- **Promote Digital Wellness:** Encouraging engagement in non-digital hobbies and activities, while also monitoring the digital content and applications children use, are steps towards a healthier digital life.
- **Lead by Example:** As adults, demonstrating balanced digital habits and sharing interactive screen time activities can set a positive precedent.
- **Encourage Mindful Use:** Teaching children to be aware of their screen time and its impact is vital. Regularly revisiting and adapting digital rules can keep pace with your family's evolving needs.
- **Educate on Privacy and Security:** Discussing online privacy, safe browsing practices, and the consequences of oversharing is fundamental to digital literacy.

Our aim is to cultivate an environment where technology enhances learning and development, balanced with awareness and precautions to protect and nurture our students' well-being in the digital landscape.

Andrew Dickinson
Principal



SCHOOL PHOTOS WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL

Order online now by visiting: www.advancedlife.com.au

enter code: 9W9 8PX EJM

or order via school photo envelope which was given out to students last week

Student ID cards are available again this year. If you require one, please send \$2.20 in an envelope with your child's name on it to the Front Office

From the library

The Premier's Reading Challenge is now well underway and as I write this we have 11 individual students already finished as well as the entirety of the Reception class who do it as a group. Well done Receptions, and well done to Nate Kean, Dusty Redding, Louis Brown, Brock Redding, Maeve Honner, Kira Weir, Elsie Dodd, Zara Thomas, Nate Redding, Evelyn Wright and Evie May! There is still plenty of time to complete the challenge with the official finish being on Friday 6th September.

The library will be hosting its annual Book Fair in Week 2 of Term 2 (beginning Monday May 6). There will be a heap of exciting and new release books on sale so it's a great chance to get some quality reading on your child's bookshelf or to buy some presents. The fair will be open all week during breaks and before and after school. If students are bringing money to school, please make sure they have it in a secure purse/bag/container and younger students may need to give it to their teacher for safekeeping.

One of the key parts of our roles as librarians is to listen to kids talk about the types of books that excite them and do everything we can to get some of these books in so every student can find something that engages them as a reader. I really appreciate the expertise of our students in finding new books or series that are great. Massive thanks to Riley Stubberfield for taking the time to compile a list of suggestions for Manga that is suitable for school. I have placed an order based on Riley's ideas so keep an eye out for Manga titles in the Graphic Novel section soon. Other recent additions based on interests I have observed in our students include: The Soccer Rules series on famous soccer players, NBA legends books and team guides, Dragon Girls, George the Farmer, Netball Gems and a heap of new books by already established favourite authors.

Keep turning pages everyone! Mr Cook.



SCHOOL FEES ARE DUE BY TUESDAY 12TH APRIL

Low income families can have school fees paid for via School Card Scheme. Please apply ASAP if you intend to do so. Search in your browser 'School Card Scheme Application 2024 SA' and follow the prompts.

Please contact the school if you need help with the application, or if you have any other questions regarding school fees.

From the Primary School

Learning Expo

The students are excited to be able to share their work from Term 1 at the Learning Expo next Tuesday 9th April. The Learning Expo is an opportunity for parents, caregivers and even grandparents to come and see the students' learning in classrooms. There will be a wide variety of work on display and the children will be ready to talk about what they have been doing. We would like to encourage parents to visit all primary classes and view learning across the year levels. The older classes will have stations set up for each subject and the younger students will have some activities they will be working on, as well as work on display.

Traffic Light Letters

The Traffic Light letters went home on Tuesday this week. These letters are an indication of academic achievement for the Year 1-5 students for the first term. Please look for the letter in your child's bag.

Reading

It's great to see so many children reading every night! The Reading Logs and diaries are being filled out and students are developing strong reading skills and habits. Regular reading at home and developing a love of reading is one the single most effective indicators of academic achievement.

Barb Agnew
Primary Coordinator

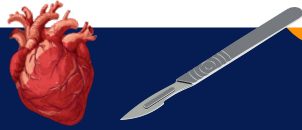


Here is some of the artwork that has been created in the Year 3/4 class this term. We have been looking at how visual arts are created and presented. The students have been using a range of different mediums to create our amazing masterpieces. Jess Hills Year 3/4 Teacher

From the Middle School

Science

Year 7/8 students conducted a sheep heart dissection in science. Many were excited, a few apprehensive. Students labelled the chambers within, and blood vessels connected to the heart. It wasn't an easy task, but one group performed particularly well. This group was made up Jayla Weir, Kourtney Hanley-Woods and Madison Gaskell.



Learning Conversations

Thank you to families who engaged in Learning Conversations this week. Hosting them via Teams from the comfort of homes I hope provided minimal impact to family routines. Giving a booking for all students this time around attempted to make more connections with families. It was great to meet some caregivers for the first time. Athletics events at Mile End in Adelaide did provide a barrier for some to participate but hopefully those who missed out can still record their presentation for families to view.

Numeracy Intervention

Starting in term 2 the Middle School will be running weekly numeracy intervention sessions. Students who are not confident in understanding and applying fundamental mathematical concepts will participate in this group. Evidence based activities that will address misconceptions and develop robust strategies will be sourced from trusted leaders of mathematical education, such as Tierney Kenndy and Professor Di Siemon. This grouping for purpose arose from the success of our weekly comprehension intervention groups, which have been running for several years.

Stephen Talbot, Middle School Coordinator

Elling woman

By Sienna McDonnell



Elling Woman was a Danish bog body found in 1938 in Silke Borg, Denmark. She was found by accident by farmer Jens Zakariassen, who was digging a peat in his yard. He originally thought that her body was a drowned animal. Upon seeing the body, there was a belt of woven wool around her waist. Jens realised that it was the remains of a human and decided to contact archaeologists from the National Museum of Denmark.

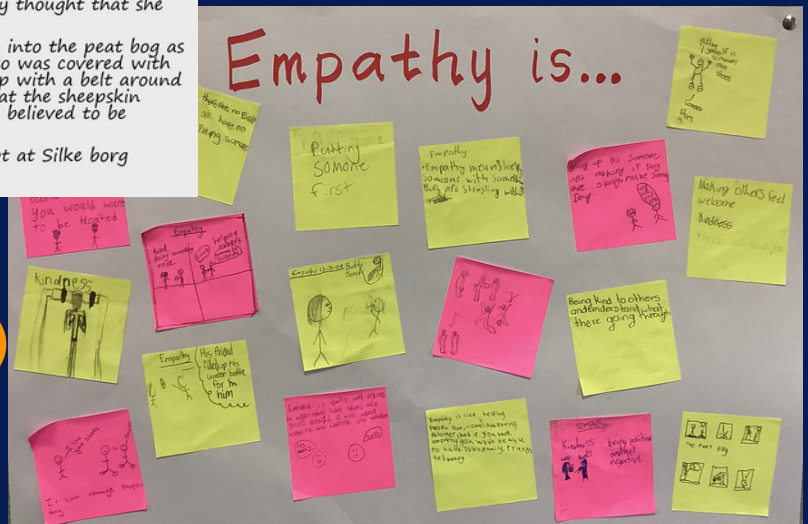
Elling Woman was estimated to have been 25 years old when she died. Archaeologists knew she was a female because of her long-braided hair. They also found a rope made from skin sewn together, which they thought that she was hung with.

Elling Woman was placed into the peat bog as a means of burial. She also was covered with sheepskin from the legs up with a belt around her waist making sure that the sheepskin would stay on. She is also believed to be naturally mummified.

Her body currently is kept at Silke borg Museum of Denmark.

Mr Coombe's Yr 6 class have been learning about archaeological processes of the past. Students were asked to examine methods & sources used to investigate a historical controversy of the past. Here is Sienna's work.

The Resilience Project has been a highlight of the term with lessons each week focusing on the gratitude, empathy and mindfulness. In this task, students were asked to define empathy with some impressive ideas recorded.



T1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 10	1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	5/4
Wk 11	8/4	9/4 - Primary Learning Expo 2.10-3pm -Yr 10/11/12 Art Excursion -YP Boys Football Carnival	10/4 -School Photos -Yr 7 & 10 Immunisations	11/4	12/4 Last day of Term 1 2.00pm dismissal 2.10pm buses leave

T2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	29/4	30/4	1/5 AFL Umpiring Course - Optional	2/5	3/5
Wk 2	6/5 Scholastic Book Fair	7/5 7/8 Basketball Carnival	8/5	9/5	10/5 Yr 11/12 Adelaide Careers Expo
Wk 3	13/5	14/5	15/5	16/5	17/5
Wk 4	20/5	21/5	22/5 Open Basketball Carnival	23/5	24/5
Wk 5	27/5	28/5	29/5 Performance 'Shekere Beats' (R-7)	30/5 -Performance 'Jam Band' (R-5) 9am -Primary Assembly	31/5
Wk 6	3/5	4/5 -Performance 'Wipe Out Waste' (R-6) -7-9 Football Carnival	5/5	6/5	7/5 Student Free Day
Wk 7	10/5	11/5	12/5	13/5	14/5
Wk 8	17/5	18/5	19/5	20/5	21/5
Wk 9	24/5 Primary Learning Conversations begin	25/5	26/5	27/5	28/5
Wk 10	1/6	2/6	3/6	4/6	5/6 Last day of Term 2 2.00pm dismissal 2.10pm buses leave

Canteen open every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Calendar correct as at 04/04/24. Check Class Dojo, Daymap & the MDS Facebook page for updates.