



## Diary Dates

### May

28<sup>th</sup> Year 2 Excursion to Para Wirra  
31<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> SAPSASA Football in Adelaide (Yr 6 Mon- Wed and Yr 7 Wed – Fri)

### June

3<sup>rd</sup> 8/9 Netball @ Maitland  
9<sup>th</sup> G'Day Asia Primary Performance  
15<sup>th</sup> Student Free Day  
15<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting  
29<sup>th</sup> Jump Rope for Heart

There is much excitement around the school as the House Leaders get their crews organised for the Jump Rope Challenge. Last week information was sent home with details about student registration to raise funds for the Heart Foundation. We are very proud of our student leaders who unanimously supported the position to donate all fundraising efforts to support research and the services offered by the Heart Foundation and not seek to gain individual prizes. Weekly lunchtime challenges will be held each Thursday, with Houses vying for points toward the 2021 House Shield. House Captains are organising training sessions at lunch and recess to ensure their teams are prepared for each week's challenge. It's great to see the kids being active and generating a positive school spirit, while increasing their own personal fitness and doing some good for others along the way. Jump Rope activities will culminate in a whole school Jump Rope afternoon on the final Tuesday of the term, so let's get skipping and see how much we can raise to support a worthy cause.

At our most recent Governing Council meeting, the new Departmental Student Use of Mobile Phones and Personal Devices policy was discussed and tailored for the MDS context. [Our Department and school recognises that there are legitimate reasons for students to bring a mobile phone or personal device to school which may include ensuring their safety while travelling or so that parents can contact them \*outside of school hours\*.](#) [Please note that it is not appropriate for parents to contact students via personal mobiles during the school day, any urgent contact should come through formal school channels.] Additionally for our students in the Middle and Senior years, mobile phones may be used as a tool to support learning [during class time under the instruction and supervision of school staff](#) for such things as recording progress via photographic evidence in practical subjects, or making recordings of oral presentations. Under these guidelines it is not necessary for students to have their mobile phones on their person during the school day, unless they are specifically required for educational purposes. For MDS students, there is no change to our position on mobile phones at school and only minor changes to our current operations through the Digital Learning Policy with which you would be familiar.

New points to note:

Primary students who bring a mobile phone to school will need to hand it to their CG teacher at the beginning of the day. It will be locked securely in the teachers' preparation office and they may collect it at the end of the day after the 3pm siren. (In reality there are very few primary students with mobile phones at MDS and we have not had an issue with primary students using them inappropriately at school).

For our Middle and Senior students, our current policy asks that mobile phones be kept in bags in locked lockers during the school day and only used with the explicit instruction and supervision of their teacher for educational purposes during a lesson. The majority of our students comply with this requirement. For those who don't, and are detected using their phones during the school day without their teacher's permission, the device is confiscated and stored in the front office to be collected at the end of the day after the 3pm siren. Please note that under our new policy, parents will be asked to collect the device after the second violation and any further violation will result in further consequences which could include suspension.

The full details of both the Primary and Secondary student use of mobile phones and personal devices will be available on our school website next week and we will educate our students in relation to any changes over the remainder of the term with full implementation from the beginning of term 3. If you have any queries or concerns about the policy, please feel free to make contact.

Last week we were rocked by the traumatic death of a young man who was part of the lives of many of our school community and we extend our deepest sympathy to family and friends at this difficult time. For many individuals, there will be personal grief at the loss of a friend, relation, or team mate, for others, this event will trigger an emotional response related to historical events or seeing others in distress. All of this is perfectly normal. As human beings, our reaction is one of compassion, care and empathy, as educators our role is to educate, to provide support and encourage students to express their feelings, and to provide resources which families and students will find useful. It will take time to lessen the grief felt at the loss of a young life, and as hearts heal the scar tissue will remain and can be triggered at any time. It is important that we are all observant; we monitor our young people and ourselves over the coming weeks and months, and we seek help to overcome the big feelings that might weigh us down. Open channels of communication are vital; be there to listen, to talk and share, and please make use of the resources that were provided via email last week, or contact us here at school if you would like further support.

The Department for Education provides very clear guidelines to schools about how they should manage situations of traumatic death, which provide excellent support to schools. These guidelines are based on best practice and the clinical advice of mental health professionals. At MDS, we have followed these guidelines and continue to use them as we remain vigilant in this situation. I appreciate that for some parents, the information disseminated last week may have caused discomfort or distress; that was not its intention. Rather, it was important that parents were armed with information and resources to assist them in support of their young people. I thank all parents who have made contact with me, either to express their concerns or to thank the school for its swift action; your feedback is both appreciated and valued.

*Ali*

### MDS Canteen Update

Tuesday night at the Governing Council meeting we put a team together of self-confessed experts & go getters to design & oversee the implementation of the much-needed canteen refurbishment. I along with design extraordinaire Carolyn Jansons, 'Thermo' cooking legend Kimberley Hamilton and jelly cake/biscuit super star Kristen Wilson, aim to put our heads together and create an awesome facility to service the hungry children & staff of MDS.

We welcome any ideas and suggestions, so please contact one of us with your thoughts.

Hopefully, we will have the new facilities completed before the end of the year. The space will be more user friendly and also create new opportunities for other MDS catering and fundraising.

FUN(d)raising committee member Kimberley Hamilton jumped at the opportunity to go on a shopping spree in Adelaide and spend some of our funds. Kimberley purchased a number of kitchen items for the school canteen that will assist Terri with the day to day running of the canteen. New bowls, toastie machine, containers, knives, chopping boards etc.

We are also continuing to support Terri on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. If you are available for any of those days in the coming weeks, let Kristen, Carolyn, Kimberley, or I know. We can put you down for a specific date. If you are able to volunteer your time from 10 til 1 that would be fabulous. If you can only commit to a shorter time let us know & we can work around your availability. If you don't yet have a Working with Children Check, please call Shan in the Front Office at school and she will talk you through the process.

Rebecca Brown

*Governing Council Member*

### Australia Post Presentation

Minlaton District School was selected to receive a special pack of picture books authored and illustrated by First Nations peoples living in remote communities across Australia and published by the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF), after local Postal Manager Debra Sullivan nominated the school in a national staff competition.

Debra, who runs the Minlaton post office and attended Minlaton District School herself said she was thrilled be able to help boost the number of Indigenous titles that could be accessed by children at the school. "Minlaton District School has a great Indigenous Studies Program, and also has the Community Library on site," Ms Sullivan said. "The children will love reading and enjoying these books."

Huge thanks to Deb for her participation in this competition and her amazing donation to our school. Deb presented the books to students Skylah, Myles and Oliver who are accompanied by Kay Lawrence our ACEO and David Buckley our AET.



## Senior School

Week 5 already, where has the time gone? Whilst this is the halfway point of the term, more importantly for senior students it means that by the time this newsletter is published, there will be only 3 weeks left in their semester! As it is rapidly approaching the business end of the semester, all students from Years 10 through 12 should be doing everything in their control to make these next few weeks count.

For Year 10 and 11 students the semester ends at **3pm** on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, with no semester 1 work being accepted after that time. In week 9 we begin a new semester, new timetable and new subjects for many students. Certainly a flat out end to the term!

### **Mid-Term Progress Reports**

At such a busy time for students it is pertinent to remind everyone that we use a range of strategies within the senior school to assist students to stay on track and well situated to achieve their best possible personal performance in each subject. Being sent home this week via Daymap are Mid-Term Progress Reports of each student's academic progress in each of their subject areas, as well as their current attendance record. This allows us as a school to get a really good picture of how students are travelling and enables us to intervene, offer support and assist them to turn things around wherever possible. It is important to note that parents of students who receive a red or yellow result are asked to contact their student's Care Group teacher, the subject teacher or myself as soon as possible to arrange a meeting to discuss student progress.

In addition, whilst not all families were able to participate in our recent Year 10 & 11 Learning conversations, all students in those year levels were asked to complete a reflection on their learning to this point in the year and email this to parents and each of their teachers.

When combined with our other regular monitoring and mentoring programs for senior students, individualised subject counseling, regular parent contact and the availability, approachability and professionalism of senior staff we aim to ensure that every senior student here at MDS gets the best opportunities to be successful at school.

### **Work Experience, Semester 1 2021.**

Year 10 students will have a compulsory Work Experience week in Week 9 of Term 2, from the 21<sup>st</sup> of June until 25<sup>th</sup> of June this year. Guidelines about the process were provided to students at the beginning of this term and have been regularly revisited over the last few weeks, in addition to being outlined in previous newsletters. It is also important to note that this is meant to be a student driven process; students should be making phone calls and following things up, not parents. All students will be required to undertake a DfE Workplace Preparation module prior to undertaking any Work Experience; this entails a number of online activities which cover Workplace Health & Safety, Equal Opportunity & Discrimination, Worker Rights & Responsibilities and other pre-Work Experience preparatory activities. Workplace Learning Agreement forms and other required forms are available from my office and must be fully completed by all parties prior to the placement beginning. For this mid-year Work Experience week, **placements must be organised and all relevant forms completed and returned to me here at school no later than 9am Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June (Week 6, Term 2)**

### Senior School (continued).

Students who do not meet this deadline will not be able to undertake a placement this semester; they will be required to attend school during that week and will carry out an alternate program focussed on learning about the world of work. Year 11 students will have the opportunity to undertake a Work Experience in Semester 2.

#### **Careers Week 2021**

Week 5 of Term 3 (16-20 August) is the Year 10 Careers Week. We have some very exciting visits planned, with many already booked and confirmed. More information, including details of a pre-trip information session early in Term 3 will follow shortly (a note will go home this week via both hard copy and email), but parents and students may want to begin sorting out accommodation.

#### **Year 12 Home Study**

Once a Year 12 student has successfully completed their Research Project and has demonstrated over the first 2 terms that they have the time management, organisation, self-drive and independent work capacity to be successful in their studies they may apply for home study privileges. If approved home study commences in Term 3 and allows the student to work from home during some of their study lessons. Further information will be distributed to parents & students shortly about the requirements for eligibility and how students may apply. There is no home study for students in any other year levels.

The Year 12 Jumpers have arrived for 2021 and they look great, see photo below.

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.*



## Middle School Report

We are now halfway through the term and students are busy working through final assessment work for the end of semester. Over the last couple of weeks, we completed NAPLAN testing. It was great to see students show a positive attitude towards the testing process, one of numerous ways we analyse student progress here at MDS. Students also developed their confidence and ability to work under test conditions, which will be beneficial in the years ahead.

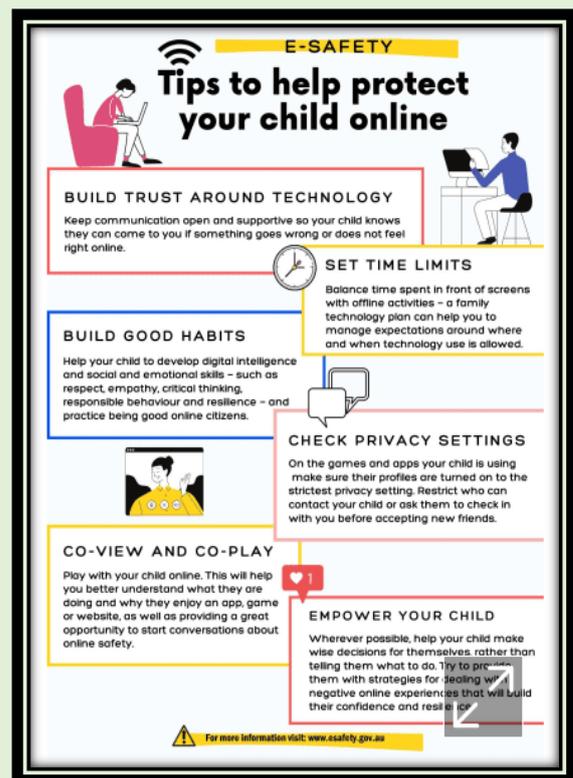
It is disappointing to report again that we have had some online issues at home, being brought into the school setting. Some of these issues are based around social media use and online activity, specifically in student group chats. Social media is a great way to stay connected with family and friends but there are a number of possible dangers involved for students and their online usage. It is very important that parents are aware of their child's interactions and online activity. As part of HPE classes this year, students will also learn about online safety and the importance of doing the right thing online, but it would be great if these discussions could also occur at home to highlight the importance of this with all students. The Australia Government eSafety website has some excellent information about online activities and the possible dangers involved. Information can be accessed at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/> for both parents and students. Please have a read of this information and support positive online activity in the future.



**Top 5 online safety tips for kids**

- 1** Set up your device to protect your information.
- 2** Explore safely & tell an adult if you see anything online that makes you feel yuck.
- 3** Limit who can contact you when you're playing games.
- 4** Stop all contact with anyone online who asks you to do anything you don't want to do. Report and block them.
- 5** Ask for help if anything online is bothering you.

eSafetykids | [esafety.gov.au/kids](https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids)



**E-SAFETY**  
**Tips to help protect your child online**

- BUILD TRUST AROUND TECHNOLOGY**  
Keep communication open and supportive so your child knows they can come to you if something goes wrong or does not feel right online.
- SET TIME LIMITS**  
Balance time spent in front of screens with offline activities – a family technology plan can help you to manage expectations around where and when technology use is allowed.
- BUILD GOOD HABITS**  
Help your child to develop digital intelligence and social and emotional skills – such as respect, empathy, critical thinking, responsible behaviour and resilience – and practice being good online citizens.
- CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS**  
On the games and apps your child is using make sure their profiles are turned on to the strictest privacy setting. Restrict who can contact your child or ask them to check in with you before accepting new friends.
- CO-VIEW AND CO-PLAY**  
Play with your child online. This will help you better understand what they are doing and why they enjoy an app, game or website, as well as providing a great opportunity to start conversations about online safety.
- EMPOWER YOUR CHILD**  
Wherever possible, help your child make wise decisions for themselves, rather than telling them what to do. Try to provide them with strategies for dealing with negative online experiences that will build their confidence and resilience.

For more information visit: [www.esafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

Please get in contact with us if you have any questions/concerns/issues with anything throughout the year. Our email addresses are [Josh.Coombe430@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Josh.Coombe430@schools.sa.edu.au) and [Craig.Fitzgerald239@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Craig.Fitzgerald239@schools.sa.edu.au)

*Josh Coombe and Craig Fitzgerald*

Middle School Coordinators

## Primary School

### Excursions

The Yr 2 class is heading off to Parra Wirra Conservation Park this Friday. They are all looking forward to the trip and will learn a lot about the natural environment. Last Friday the Yr 3-5 students went to Adelaide to view some performances, visit the zoo (Yr 3s) and then it was off to the Maritime Museum for the afternoon. The children all learnt so much from the day - from the performance in the morning where they learnt how to become a musician, to the afternoon where they climbed over the ketch and imagined what it would have been like sailing it in days gone by. During the next few weeks the children will build on the knowledge they gained from the experience.

### Learning Conversations (Parent, Teacher and Student Interviews)

Learning Conversations will be held in the last 3 weeks of term. At this time teachers will give parents their student's reports and progress can be discussed. Class teachers will send home individual notes in the next few weeks with information about dates and times available for the interviews. A copy will be posted on Class Dojo. Parents will be able to book meeting times online.

### Jump Rope for Heart

The students have taken home some Jump Rope for Heart forms. The Student Leaders have decided to raise money for the Heart Foundation and all students R-12 will participate in the jump off day. Primary children will be doing some skipping during fitness time. Please register your children online. The forms provide all the instructions.



**Going to preschool helps your child to learn new things, make friends and develop confidence.**

**Children who turn 4 before 1 May 2022 can start preschool at the beginning of the year before they start school**

**Contact Minlaton District Early Learning Centre on 88532301 or 0437789348 or email [dl.2686.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.2686.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au) to register your child now.**

**For more information**  
**[www.education.sa.gov.au](http://www.education.sa.gov.au)**



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education

## THE WORLD'S BIGGEST GRATITUDE LESSON

On Wednesday May 19th, the 4-5 class took part in 'The World's Biggest Gratitude Lesson' by joining an online webinar hosted by Ash Manuel, the founder of Growing With Gratitude. This session complemented the Health lessons this year we have completed on the Habits Of Happiness (gratitude, kindness, empathy, positive reflection and service). Students from 39 countries tuned in to the event.

During the session we revised what gratitude is, what we are grateful for and the benefits of being grateful. The things the class were grateful included food, water, toilets, shelter, friends, family, technology and pets. It was interesting to note that many students from India tuned in which prompted a discussion about their current plight with COVID. This reinforced to us all just how grateful we are to be in Australia whilst at the same time remaining empathetic to other people less fortunate than us.

The Wellbeing component of our Health curriculum is almost complete. This term we have been investigating the GRIT acronym (Growth Mindset, Resilience, Inner Self, Try Hard Rule).

*Josh Coombe*  
4-5 HPE Teacher



### 3/4/5 Excursion

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May the Year 3 – 5 students went on an excursion to Adelaide.

The Year 4/5 students attended DreamBIG Children's Festival, while the Year 3 students visited the Zoo. All students spent the afternoon at the Maritime Museum.

I liked when the monkeys did a double backflip. Evie

I liked when we saw the lions. Estella

I liked the part where we went in the big bunkers. Bailey

My favourite part was the ship at the Maritime Museum. Jett

I liked when we went to the Dream Big Kids Festival and when he played the flute with his nose. Shanaid

My favourite part was when the monkey went through the tunnel and stayed in the same spot and stared at us. Naida

I liked going through the boat. Jackson



## Library News

During Week 4 the Primary classes celebrated National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) in the library. NSS is an initiative of ALIA (Australian Library and Information Association) and involves groups all around the country reading the same children's picture book at the same time (hence simultaneous). This year the book was 'Give me some Space' by Phillip Bunting. The wonderful Ms Bogle (or was it the alien lifeform known as Gnuk Gnuk?) gave us an inspired rendition of the book. This was followed by a perhaps less polished, but fascinating reading of the same title, broadcast to us all the way from the International Space Station. Students watched in wonder as the book and its reader floated in the limited gravity around the space station. To finish proceedings we gave away 5 brand new books (picked from a wide range) to 5 randomly selected students. Congratulations to our winners and massive thanks to Ms Bogle for giving so freely of her time in what was (like any week for a school Principal) a very busy week.

The Premier's Reading Challenge continues to roll on and will wind up at the end of Week 7, Term 3. Well done to Bridget Cook – the latest of a plethora of students from the Year 2 class to finish – they are really setting the pace this year in Mrs C and Ms Hocking's group. Any student in the school can complete the Challenge – please see me for reading record forms if you don't already have one.

One doesn't like to pump up their own tires but I may have set a new MDS Newsletter record for most sets of brackets in a paragraph there in my first one – just saying.

Keep turning pages everyone, Mr Cook {or possibly the alien lifeform known as Gnar-gn oog [(that was the last set of brackets) just in case anyone's keeping count]}.



## **Sport News**

### **Yorke Peninsula Zone Year 8/9 Football**

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May, 6 MDS students represented Yorke Peninsula Zone in the Year 8/9 School Sport SA Statewide Schools Competition. Myles Hamilton, Henry Coote, Freddie Wilson, Will Ryan, Christian Reade and Connor Ormsby were all selected in the team based on their performances at the 9-a-side carnival earlier in the term. The team was a combined side with students from Ardrossan, Central Yorke, Harvest, Minlaton, Moonta and Yorketown schools.

After some overnight rain, a cold and windy day greeted the boys in 'The City of Opportunity', with matches played at the recently upgraded Memorial Oval Sports Precinct. The first match was against Mid North Zone and was a tightly contested match during the first half. Mid North gained the ascendancy in the second half but poor kicking in front of goal kept the YP side in the match. Mid North eventually ran out winners 6.15 to Yorke Peninsula 4.1.

In the final match of the day, Yorke Peninsula came up against a quality St Marks side. St Marks got on top early in the match with some great skills on display. In the second half, Yorke Peninsula fought back well with a couple of excellent goals through great team play. Final scores were St Marks 17.6 to Yorke Peninsula 2.3. Well done to all the MDS students involved, who represented our school and zone with pride. Thanks to Michael, Kimberley, Kristen and Emma for transporting the boys and supporting them at the event.



### **SA Secondary Lawn Bowls Championships**

On Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>, Indiana and Ava Vass travelled to Adelaide to participate in the School Sport SA Secondary Lawn Bowls Championships. The event was held at the Holdfast Bay Bowling Club and provided some high-quality matches at a great venue.

Ava won her first match before going down narrowly in her second match. She ended the day with a good win with her final match at the event. Indiana started the day with an early loss but then improved as the day went on to win her last two matches. Both girls thoroughly enjoyed the day and loved the opportunity to test out their skills against some excellent opposition from around the state.

**Home Ec**

Year 8/9 girls were presented with a challenging task last week in Home Ec. They had to prepare Chicken Kiev from scratch, together with gratin potatoes and sautéed carrots and beans. The task involved using a specific "precision cut" (jardinière) and a presentation technique of using leaves to bundle the carrots. Containing 3 different elements, they had to use their time management and organisation in order to plate and serve it all at the same time. A very successful practical, with some new skills learnt.

Jenny Stanton  
Home Ec Teacher



**CANTEEN  
VOLUNTEERS  
URGENTLY  
NEEDED**

Lunch service in the canteen is going off!  
We need helpers 11am - 1pm Wed/Thur/Fri to  
feed the hungry!  
You will need a working with children check.  
Please ring 88532346

**Canteen News**

**Remember: Canteen lunch service Wed – Fri only.**

**New WINTER Menu**





 **Census**

**19,791 jobs available**

**2021 Census Field Officer**

\$24.80 per hour (incl 25% loading) + super  
 (Contract/Temporary)  
 Roles start from July 2021

Earn extra income  
 Apply now: [censusjobs.addecco.com.au](https://censusjobs.addecco.com.au)

**Adecco**



**FAMILY FUN DAY OUT**

**Free Event**  
**Saturday, June 12**  
**11am to 3pm**

**Weaner's Flat Reserve**  
*(Next to Playground in Yorketown)*

**JUMPING CASTLES**  
**SLIDE COMBO &**  
**ANIMAL FARM**  
*For Children Aged 1 to 15 Years*

**Bring Your Family,**  
**Children or Grandchildren**  
*Castles Will Be Supervised (Shoes Off for Jumping)*  
*Sun Shade Roof/ Wet Weather Cover on Castles*

**Covid Safe plan in place**  
*Contact Gina - Phone 0447 380 790*

**RELIEF BUS DRIVER REQUIRED**

We are looking for a qualified driver who would be able to drive the Pt Julia bus at short notice when our regular driver is unavailable.

If you think this might be you and have the appropriate qualifications – please contact Shan in the Front Office to register your interest.

Ph. 8853 2346  
[dl.0781.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0781.info@schools.sa.edu.au)



**CMS CROWS TRAINING – WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE BUS PASSES FOR STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO CURRAMULKA OR STANSBURY FOR FOOTBALL OR NETBALL TRAINING THIS TERM. PLEASE MAKE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR CHILD/REN.**