

**PRINCIPAL'S
REPORT**

**STUDENT
WELLBEING
SURVEY
RESULTS**

**PRESENTATION
NIGHT AWARD
NOMINATIONS**

**WHAT IS
EDSMART?**

**CHANGES TO
2027 FEES**

**Edition 5
2026**



Skylah & Tuleah at SAPSASA Soccer in Adelaide

**MINLATON
DISTRICT
SCHOOL**



WWW.MINLATONDS.SA.EDU.AU

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2026

A great Term 3

by Andrew Dickinson

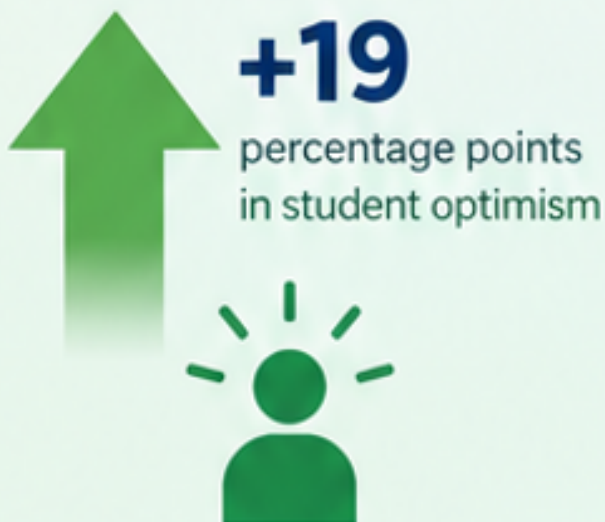
As Term 3 comes to a close, I am proud of what our students, staff, families and community have achieved together. It has been a busy term filled with learning opportunities, connection and plenty of highlights. Most importantly, our students continue to show enthusiasm, resilience and care for one another - qualities that make our school such a special place.

Learning with purpose

Across Term 3, students have been engaged in authentic, inquiry-based learning that connects with real questions and real-world challenges. From investigating the algal issues affecting Yorke Peninsula with our industry partners, to exploring what makes a healthy mind in our Expeditions work, our students are developing the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be effective leaders.

Exceptional student wellbeing results

Our 2026 Student Wellbeing and Engagement Collection results show significant improvement across a wide range of measures.



Across the past two years, 22 wellbeing and engagement measures have improved. This is strong evidence that our focus on belonging, connection and purposeful learning is making a real difference.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

Term 3 has also been rich in opportunities beyond the classroom. Students have represented the school through a range of SAPSASA and school sport activities, while our work through the Yorke Peninsula Secondary Alliance has provided senior students with practical pathway experiences in areas such as electrotechnology, cookery and hospitality, and early childhood education and care.

Closer to home, the Governing-Council led Primary Disco and Father's Day fundraiser were wonderful examples of families contributing to the life and culture of our school.

Recognition of Our School

It was a privilege to share our Effective Learners journey at the South Australian Area School Leaders Conference in Adelaide. Following our first place in the 2025 Area School Best Practice Awards, the conference provided an opportunity to speak with school leaders from across the state about the work of our students, staff, families and community.



A positive staff culture

Our 2026 staff myWellbeing survey results were higher than the Department for Education overall result across all 15 headline measures.



A positive, supportive staff culture creates the best conditions for our students to learn and thrive.

Thank you and looking ahead

Thank you to our staff for their dedication, to our families for your ongoing support, and to our students for the energy, kindness and determination you bring each day.

We hope everyone enjoys a safe and refreshing break. We look forward to seeing you all back for the final term of the year, ready for more learning, more opportunities and more shared success.

“A connected school community where every student is empowered to thrive”

2027 material and services charge

Families should have received an email recently from EdSmart advising them of the State Government's commitment to removing universal material and services charges from 2027 as part of its cost-of-living measures for South Australian families.

For your convenience, the information that was emailed is attached to the end of this newsletter.

This is great news for South Australian families.

So, what is EdSmart?

EdSmart is a web-browser-based technology for capturing information and responses about your children's activities at school.

We now use EdSmart to distribute forms and communications to you, as a parent or caregiver, so you can complete these forms and submit them online. This helps streamline the flow of communications between you and the school.

EdSmart ensures sensitive information about your child is handled securely, delivered in a timely manner... and does not get lost in the bottom of school bags!

It is important that we have your current email address for Edsmart to work properly. Please let us know if you haven't received anything from EdSmart yet, or if you have changed your email address recently,

Thank you, Mr Pantano!



A big thank you to Lucas Pantano, who recently spent some time at MDS with Miss Roads and one of our 3/4 classes as a pre-service teacher. We were lucky enough to have him accompany us on the Year 3-5 school camp to Arbury Park.

He was really fun & joined in with us to play Rabbits, Hares & Foxes - Ayla C & Indi B

He is very good at guitar - Zara T

Lucas was very well liked by our students and staff, and he certainly made an impact in his short time here.

We wish him all the best as he continues his journey into teaching!



Materials and services charge

Information sheet for R–12 school families

The State Government has committed to removing universal materials and services charges from 2027 as part of its cost-of-living measures for South Australian families. Schools will not lose under this policy. This initiative will be funded by the State Government and your school will be provided with the funding that it would have received through the universal materials and services charge. Your school will also continue to receive funding to meet the needs of students and to staff classrooms.

Legislative changes are still required before the new arrangements can take effect. This information is provided to support families to plan for 2027.

Families will not be required to pay the universal materials and services charge, however your school will be able to continue to set fees to recover costs for those individual subjects that form part of your school's curriculum that are optional for students/families to choose from. For these schools, subject choice continues to be an important aspect of the curriculum offering and these fees will not include core costs, which will continue to be funded by government, for example teacher salaries.

School card information for secondary school students

Secondary school families should continue to apply for the school card program, where eligibility provides assistance with other school related costs, like free devices for year 7 and 10 school card eligible students and where optional or specialist subjects are chosen.

School card information for primary school students

The initiative will avoid the need for primary school families to apply for school card and this will reduce administrative burden for families and the school.

Families will continue to pay for items such as uniforms, digital devices and optional excursions, as has always been the case.

Please note that the discontinuation of the universal materials and services charge applies with effect from the 2027 school year. Any outstanding charges should continue to be paid, and your school can work with you if there are any issues.

This initiative does not apply to international or non-resident students and separate advice will be provided in due course.

The focus of this policy is for schools. The current fee arrangements for preschools will continue. Should you have any queries regarding the information provided, please contact the department on 1800 088 158 (free call).

2026 Tom Venning MP School Community Award Nominations

We invite members of our school community to nominate someone who deserves recognition through the **2026 Tom Venning MP School Community Award**.

The award recognises a staff member, parent or community member who has gone the extra mile by generously giving their time, skills and support to our school community.

If you know someone who has made a difference, we would love to hear from you!

Please provide the name of your nominee and a short citation outlining their contribution and **email it to Andrew.Dickinson8@schools.sa.edu.au by Friday 23 October 2026**.

2026 Sports Awards Nominations

Do you know a student who deserves recognition for their contribution to school sport?

We are inviting students, parents and staff to nominate students for our sports awards:

Primary Sports Award
Secondary Sports Award
Year 12 Sports Award

Please email your nomination to Craig.Fitzgerald239@schools.sa.edu.au .

Simply include: Student's name:

Award Category:

A short citation outlining your nomination:

Nomination criteria is attached at the end of this newsletter. **Nominations close Friday 6 November 2026.**

The Primary and Secondary Sports Awards are supported by the Minlaton District Community and Sports Centre. The Year 12 Sports Award is supported by the Minlaton Progress Association.

***Awards to be presented at Presentation Night
Thursday 27 November 2026***

Special Sports Awards – Presentation Night.

DUE: Term4, Week4 - Friday 6/11/26

All sports award nominations can be sent to Craig Fitzgerald via email Craig.Fitzgerald239@schools.sa.edu.au or left in an envelope at the front office.

Primary Sports Award

- Open to male and female students in years 5-6
- Consistent or high achievement in a range of school sports (community sport not taken into consideration).
- Positive ambassador for MDS at all times.
- Displayed leadership in sport or held leadership positions.
- Students, parents and staff are able to nominate students for this award.
- The winner will be selected by the HPE Committee based on the evidence presented to them on nomination forms.

Award: The winning student will receive an award donated by the Minlaton District Community and Sports Centre.

Secondary Sports Award

- Open to male and female students in years 7-11
- Consistent or high achievement in a range of school sports (community sport not taken into consideration).
- Positive ambassador for MDS at all times.
- Displayed leadership in sport or held leadership positions.
- Students, parents and staff are able to nominate students for this award.
- The winner will be selected by the HPE Committee based on the evidence presented to them on nomination forms.

Award: The winning student will receive an award donated by the Minlaton District Community and Sports Centre.

Year 12 Sports Award

Essential Criteria

- Must be in Year 12.
- Been involved in sport in every year of enrolment (preferably at least in years 10-12).
- Been involved in a range of strictly school sports (community sport not taken into consideration).
- Been a consistent or excellent performer at all times in sports undertaken.

Preferred Criteria

- Displayed leadership or held leadership positions in sports undertaken and been a role model to fellow students.
- Been an ambassador for Minlaton District School.

Shown willingness to assist teachers and parents in the set-up, organisation or any other aspects of sports teams/events.

Displayed all attributes of goods "Sports-person-ship".

- Upheld school and other codes of conduct at all times.
- Students, parents and staff are able to nominate students for this award.
- The winner will be selected by the HPE Committee based on the evidence presented to them on nomination forms.

Award: The winning student shall receive an award donated by the Minlaton Progress Association.