

NEWSLETTER



SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2024

CONGRATULATIONS to
our 2024 **School**

Captains: Sasha May,
Madi-Lee Ryan (absent)
Mackenzie White, Ivy
Cranwell, Isabella
Edwards & Lara Cook.



From the principal

We're only five weeks into the term, and there's already so many exciting activities happening at our school! The start of the year has had a really positive feel about it. Before the students came back (in what we call week 0), our staff spent time learning about how to make everyone feel more connected and part of the school family. You could really sense the difference in the school atmosphere right from the start – classrooms felt happier and livelier.

I'm proud to say that our Class of 2023 did exceptionally well with all students completing their SACE. Those that applied for further studies got into the courses they wanted. This is a huge win for them, their families and the staff who supported them along the way and shows how hard they've worked.

We've been sprucing up the place too, Middle School got a new coat of paint, and the art room looks renewed thanks to Kirsty Champion's hard work. She's put in a lot of effort to give it a makeover. I hope you all get the opportunity to see the new and improved facilities when you visit the school.

Tammy Blair, our new Canteen Manager has already made some favourable changes to the Canteen and feedback from students has been really positive. Tammy is excited to be a part of MDS and will continue to make improvements once she has settled in. Watch this space!!

The Year 12 retreat at Wallaroo was a big hit. Our Year 12s got the opportunity to spend time with students from other schools and brain storm ways to make the most out of their Year 12 experience.

We're also seeing more parents at our assemblies, which is fantastic. It's important to keep building this connection with our school community, especially after COVID.

Last week's induction assembly was a great opportunity to induct our school and house leaders in front of students, staff and community members. I was proud of the dedication from all students. My personal highlights were Ivy's Welcome to Country and Sasha's speech. Congratulations to all leaders, we are in good hands.

Throughout 2024 our improvement work will focus on ensuring that the conditions for learning are optimal. This includes student wellbeing and in particular the connections we make with each other. Part of this involves working closely with The Resilience Project to support the wellbeing of our school community.

The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity. We will be implementing their evidence-based Teaching and Learning Program throughout our classrooms, staffroom and school community. Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM) and Emotional Literacy to build resilience.

Current research tells us...

Why mental health matters

RESILIENCE PROJECT



One in four Australian adolescents will experience mental health problems this year

Nearly two thirds of them will not seek help.



One in seven primary school students are also likely to experience mental health problems this year.

Our Partnership Program consists of online presentations and weekly lessons for students, professional development for staff, and Parent & Carer Hub (inc. digital presentations) for our parent and carer community.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing the Parent & Carer Hub with you. The videos are 5-10 minutes long and will walk through the key pillars of resilience: Gratitude, Empathy & Mindfulness. You'll hear stories and be introduced to activities to show how these strategies can support our kids' learning and development, and also support you as parents and carers.

This program is an important part of our school's effort to look after the mental health of our community.

View the first presentation of the series here:

[Part 1: Meet Hugh and learn about The Resilience Project](#)

In this presentation, Hugh shares a personal experience about his sister's battles with Mental Illness.

Note: This video contains a story about an eating disorder that may be triggering. Please consider this before watching. For mental health resources and support information, visit [The Resilience Project's Support Page](#).

To learn more about The Resilience Project and get involved from home, you can start exploring the ideas, activities and resources which bring Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM) to life on [TRP@HOME](#).

The book that started us off on this journey is available as an audiobook on Spotify Premium or free from our community library.

Dedicated lessons started this week and of the ones that I have seen so far every single student was entirely engaged.

Andrew Dickinson

Spencer House Captains Vincent House Captains Yorke House Captains



Jorja Bennett, Gabbi Sullivan, Jimmy Honner, Baillie Bennett, Olivia East (absent) & Anais Glazbrook (absent)



Darcy Walsh, Shantelle Modra, Kira Lennerth, Tida Hoskin & Henry Lawton-Lamb (absent)



Amber Borgmeyer, Tayah Dunstone, Annabelle Cook, Dexter Kokar, Maddi Warrior & Bella Weir with Principal Andrew Dickinson



2024

Wellbeing Leaders

Jack Dale, Joe Rothe, Willow Smith, Tilli Macgowan, Tuleah Jeffrey, Evalyn Wright, Ryeley Dutschke, Evie May, Rose Gibson, Principal Andrew Dickinson, Di Nankivell (Pastoral & Care Support Worker) & Kelly Gibson (Governing Council Representative)

From the library

Last year saw the end of Candy's magnificent career in Libraries and the start of what we hope will be a long and fulfilling retirement. Candy has already reported spending more time reading, gardening and hanging out with her beloved pup Flossy. It's a big shift for our primary students who keep asking 'where's Candy?' like the thought of a library without a Candy (and vice-versa) had never occurred to them!

Candy's departure has paved the way for Heidi to join us and she has already put her own stamp on things, building on the excellent work of Candy before her. Massive thanks go to Candy for her willingness to support this transition. Heidi is not entirely new to us as she has covered Candy's leave in the past and also comes with considerable experience at the Corny Point Library depot and Yorketown depot. Heidi has already made great connections with our students and communities who have instantly warmed to her generous, thoughtful and caring nature. Welcome Heidi! Make sure you take the chance to get to know Heidi next time you're in if you haven't already.

The Premier's Reading Challenge has kicked off – students have their forms and can start recording their books. This includes books they have already read this year and massive congratulations go to Louis Brown for being the first one to hand in his completed form – just days after receiving it. Louis, like many of our students has been busily reading all year and was able to use the library system to look back at all the books he'd already read this year. This 'borrower history' is an opt in feature of the library management software. If you'd like to keep track of what your child has borrowed you need to let us know we have permission to do this – for privacy reasons we can't track their history without permission. If you are not sure if a book is on the Premier's Reading Challenge list you can check at this website premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au where you can also find reading record sheets if you need a new one.

Primary Library Lessons focus on developing a love for reading. We do this because we believe that students who enjoy reading read more often and their vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and even writing skills all benefit from this and these benefits lead to increased learning outcomes across all curriculum areas. Not only that but it's just a great peaceful hobby! These lessons involve reading, hearing reading, talking about books and preferences, journaling about the books we read, sharing about them and of course borrowing books that suit our own personal interests and reading ability. As a parent you can support this learning by reading to your child, asking them questions about their read and modelling that you too enjoy reading and have your own reading preferences.

Keep turning pages everyone! Mr Cook.



Heidi Modra, Librarian

Road Safety *with Brevet Sergeant David Hills*



ALWAYS wear a helmet when riding

WALK bikes across the school crossing

LOOK both ways

TALK with your child regularly about road safety

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL Athletics Carnival

1500m final - Monday 4th March, *from 9am*

800m final - Tuesday 5th March, *from 9am*

SPORTS DAY - Friday 8th March, *from 8.50am*

CASH ONLY CANTEEN

please let the school know if you are available to lend a hand on the day

ALL WELCOME!

From the Primary School Coordinator

Beach Days

The Primary students attended Beach Safety days in February. The younger children went to Port Vincent where the Port Vincent Aquatics staff taught the children what it means to be safe at the beach and on the water, and they engaged in a variety of fun activities. The Year 4 and 5 students went to Berry Bay and had a go at boogie boarding and surfing. They learnt about rips, what to look for and how to manage themselves if they are ever caught in one. The beach days are always enjoyable times for everyone, and it allows children to build relationships with their peers and staff.

Times Tables

Students in Years 3-5 work hard to learn their times tables. Automatic recall of tables gives children a high level of confidence and certainly makes performing many mathematical tasks easier. Many parents have asked for suggestions of how to help children develop automatic recall of their tables. One thing students can do is to say their tables to themselves as they are falling asleep at night. They can say them in order forwards and then backwards. By the time they finish they are often asleep. This is a good technique as various studies have shown that the last thing someone thinks about at night before sleep, are the things the sub-conscious brain processes as they sleep. Following are several apps that are good for students to help them learn their tables and most of them are free.

'Monkey Maths' – This is a fun game that helps students with basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.

'Space Pig' – Is a game where players focus on one set of times tables at a time.

'Times Tables Rock Stars' – Is an app for those children who like to sing to help them learn.

'Tap Times Tables' – Has games with squirrels throwing nuts at times table sums.

There are many other apps available through the Apps Store.

Primary Assembly

At the Primary Assembly the children presented some of the work they have done in the first few weeks of school. The new school leaders capably led the assembly, speaking confidently to the audience. All students learn valuable skills through participating in the assembly and it's always great to see they have the courage to present to such a large audience. The children enjoy seeing what each of the other classes have been doing and we appreciated the support shown by the parents and caregivers.



Volunteers

Volunteers are always welcome to work with children in classes. A police check is needed to work with children at school. The types of things volunteers can do include listening to reading, helping with times tables, spelling practice or helping with special events. If you would like to volunteer, please contact your child's teacher.

From the Year 5 class



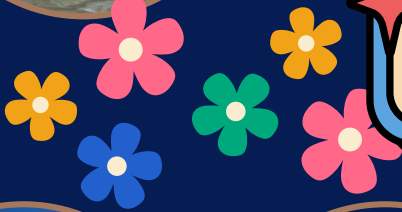
SURFING @ BERRY BAY



On Thursday 15th February, the year 5 students along with the year 4's from Mrs. Hills and Miss Lu's classes, travelled down to Berry Bay for their surf day.

We had ideal conditions; beautiful, warm sunshine and a decent roll of waves to keep the students and staff entertained in the water. Students were shown how to body board, and some took the opportunity to learn how to surf. A portion of them managed to ride the waves all the way in, absolute naturals!

Thanks to the instructors at Port Vincent for facilitating the students to feel confident and safe in the water.



Community Notice

MINLATON BAKERY EASTER COLOURING IN COMPETITION IS ON AGAIN
YOU CAN PICK UP A COLOURING IN SHEET FROM THE BAKERY
32 MAIN STREET MINLATON



NEW TO THE CANTEEN

| FRESH SALADS | FRUIT SALAD |
| HAM & SALAD ROLLS |



ORDER VIA QKR!

GOVERNING COUNCIL AGM

26th March 2024

7.30pm

MDS staff room

POSITIONS VACANT

New members are encouraged to
attend!

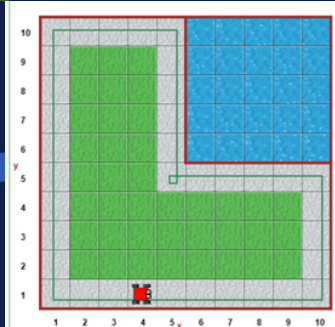
From the Middle School Coordinator

Students have been developing their coding legs in Year 6/7 Digital Technology. Python was the coding language of choice used to control a robot called Reeborg. Students are using rounds of iteration to develop the most efficient code to complete modules (Worlds).

```

1 def turn_right():
2     repeat 3 :
3         turn_left()
4 def hop():
5     repeat 2:
6         move()
7
8 turn_left()
9 move()
10 turn_right()
11 hop()
    
```

Reeborg Code



Reeborg World

Coding examples by Naida

In Year 7/8 Science, students have been busy drafting their Plate Tectonics assignment. They select tasks from different levels of difficulty and academic stretch.

Surveys about coping with either an earthquake, volcanic eruption or tsunamis were performed, models of plate boundaries were made and narrated story boards explaining crustal events were recorded.

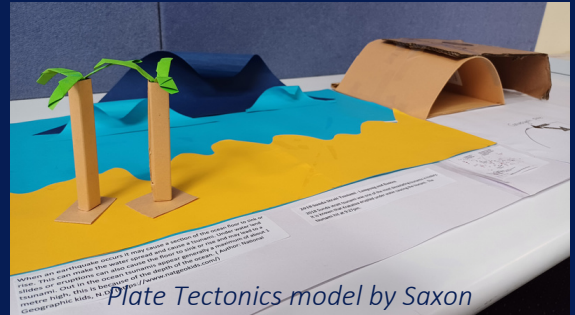
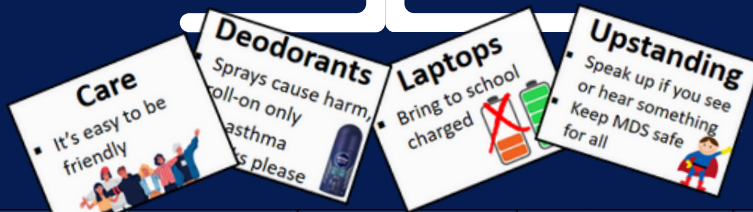


Plate Tectonics model by Saxon



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 6	4/3 1500m Final	5/3 800m Final	6/3	7/3	8/3 Athletics Carnival (Sports Day)
Wk 7	11/3 Adelaide Cup Public Holiday	12/3 Student free day School fees due	13/3	14/3	15/3
Wk 8	18/3	19/3	20/3	21/3	22/3 Primary School Athletics Carnival
Wk 9	25/3	26/3	27/3	28/3	29/3
Wk 10	1/4	2/4	3/4 Secondary State Track & Field @ Mile End	4/4	5/4
Wk 11	8/4	9/4 YP Boys Football Carnival	10/4 Year 7 & 10 Immunisations	11/4	12/4 Last day of Term 1

Canteen open Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

Calendar correct as at 01/03/24. Check Class Dojo, Daymap & the MDS Facebook page for updates.

From the Senior School Coordinator

Here at MDS we are really pleased that our students pursue a really wide range of of study options that match their interests and skill sets. This certainly fits with our individual student pathway approach and acknowledges and encourages success for all, with the measure of success being that the student is pursuing a field of study that they are passionate about. This is no more evident than with the high percentage of students at MDS currently undertaking Vocational Learning.

Our students are studying and working in areas such as Agriculture, Building & Construction, IT & Cybersecurity, Early Childhood Education, Media and Film making, Rural operations and Business. All of these come about through individualised pathway counselling and are in areas where the students themselves wish to be working post school. Some of these are Flexible Industry Pathways such as the Certificate II Construction Course that three of our students are undertaking out of Yorketown Area School this year, whilst others are School Based Apprenticeships.

The learning contributes to their SACE but more importantly equips them with the skills and knowledge they need for their future careers.

My Academy of Interactive Entertainment course is teaching me how to plan, model, and animate in 3d modelling software and how to use online game and media software for professional use like video games, movie VFX, and animation.

Henry Lawton-Lamb

I'm undertaking the Certificate II in Construction Pathways Course at Yorketown twice per term. This fantastic opportunity has widened my knowledge of construction pathways & the correct way to operate on a building site. I aim to benefit through expanding my knowledge of the correct techniques & safety protocols.

Jackson Chappell



Jaxson G



Certificate II Construction students at Yorketown Area School, incl 3 MDS students

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.

[Apply here](#)

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