Newsletter 6

14 APRIL, 2022

Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Celebrating 30 Years 1992-2022

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

DIARY DATES

APRIL / MAY 2022

April

14th - Last Day of Term 1
25th - ANZAC Day

May
2nd - Student Free Day
4th - SYP Cross Country
6th - Yr11/12 Careers Trip

*see attached full term Calendar
All External dates to be confirmed dependent on Covid restrictions

Fortnightly Feature

MINLATON DISTRICT SCHOOL CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

'Where are they now?'

In the graduating class of 2009 a student had an ambition to work in the Animal Science and Human Nutrition Sector. Her Plans changed in mid-2013, here is her story.

Introducing Kali Germein

Upon finishing year twelve at MDS, I had a couple of options for university including Animal Science and Human Nutrition.

At the end of 2009 I started a job at the local Landmark (now Nutrien) thinking I would take a year off before university. I stayed there for three years before moving to Victoria and New South Wales to work as a polo groom. Life as a groom was fairly hard work with long hours and when it was coming to an end, I started to think I should pursue a job that would include some qualifications of some sort and freshen up my resume!

In mid-2013 I started the process of applying for the Defence Force. I joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Hydrographic Surveyor at the beginning of 2014 which saw me start my Naval training in Victoria then onto Sydney before my first 'posting' in Cairns, Queensland.

My core job in the Navy involved operating the survey system onboard ships which collected data such as depths, temperatures and the topography of the sea floor. I was fortunate to travel to remote areas and islands of Australia many people would never have the chance to visit. I was very privileged in 2018 to be a member of a small team to conduct survey work in Antarctica.

After feeling the need for a change, I had 12 months leave from the Navy in 2019 in order to come home and work on the family farm. I officially discharged from the Defence Force in 2020 however my hand is still up for any 'reserve time' when it fits into the farm life!

In 2020 I established Germein Farm Charollais breeding Charollais Sheep. This has become a success with local butchers sourcing my meat. I thoroughly enjoy working on the farm and living on the Yorke Peninsula.

GERMEIN FARM
CHAROLLAIS
EST. 2020

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY.....

- **Were you a MDS Student?**
- **Do you know a previous student with an interesting career or pathway?**

Please contact us

SITE CLOSURE

Asbestos removal - 26th-29th April 2022

- **No School Access**
- **No Community Library Access**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

A MESSAGE FROM ALI

Last week we welcomed a brand new member of staff and I am sure the whole of the SYP heard my sigh of relief. Scott Nankivell has joined our team as our new Digital Systems Technician taking on the oversight of all things IT at MDS. It has been wonderful to hand over the IT baton and already Scott is making changes that will improve our systems and operations. Welcome aboard Scott…you have made this Principal very happy!

As we draw a close on one of the most incredible school terms I have ever experienced I am once again humbled by the efforts and professionalism of the team who work here at MDS and I want to express my very deep gratitude to them for all that they do for our school and for your children.

Teaching and supporting young people is never an easy job; add in the complexities that have been thrown at schools this term, and it's no wonder that our staff are tired…and anxious. Anxious about the learning that has been missed this term, the lack of continuity, the disruptions and lack of certainty about who will be in class today and where everyone is with their learning. Anxious about how they are going to plug the gaps for those students who have missed important learning, and keep those children who are not present engaged and connected to their class. Anxious about when it will be their turn to make the call that will put their colleagues under the pump because they can't come in to school.

We have had days this term when over 100 students have been absent, and weeks on end with different children attending each day. We have had weeks this term when staff have been absent and those children here have seen a rotation of teachers in their classrooms, many of whom are taking classes in lieu of their preparation and marking time. It's been tough and I am in awe of the staff who continue to rock up day after day and do their utmost to make sure that your child receives the very best learning experience they can deliver…every…day.

As we embark on the Easter break and school holidays, I really hope that you and your children will reflect on the efforts of their teachers and support staff, and in your own small way, give thanks that we are blessed with the team that we have at MDS.

I hope that over the next two weeks we will all take the opportunity to rest and recharge. Goodness knows we need to.

Ali

At the going down of the sun,
And in the Morning
We will remember them

Scott Nankivell

A note from the Finance Office

Canteen

Thank you to all of the students who volunteered in the Canteen this term.
You have helped to keep our canteen open and have done an incredible job.
We appreciate you putting your hands up.

Thank you to Cathy Glazbrook for taking on the Canteen Manager role for Term 1.
Cathy has gone above and beyond to create procedures to ensure the canteen runs smoothly and safely, including a delicious menu that she would have liked to make continual changes to if she had more time here at MDS.
Thank you for everything you have done Cathy in the short amount of time you have been at MDS.
I will miss your delicious salads, all your fabulous ideas and our chats.

Finances

Statements were sent out last week.
2022 Materials and Service Charges, please attend to these ASAP. If you haven't yet paid or made an arrangement with myself, please contact me to arrange a payment plan. Otherwise please make payment via QKR!, direct bank transfer or come in to the Bookroom during school hours.
Wondering if you are eligible for School Card this year? Have a look at this link and submit your applications as early as you can.
www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme
I am also happy to help you with the application, get in contact with me to make a suitable time.

Library and Student Device invoices can also be paid via the above options.
Calculator Hire: for families who have senior students and have hired graphic calculators for the year, if you have not paid the $130 hire fee, please attend to this charge ASAP or set up a payment plan. Otherwise please have your child return the calculator.

Winter Jackets at due to arrive end of May. I will let families that have ordered when they arrive.

My email is zoe.weir991@schools.sa.edu.au to send any remittances or ask any questions.

Minlaton District School
BSB: 015642
ACC: 217331388

Thank you
Zoe

Senior School News

Wow, what a bizarre term it has been. It started with a large degree of upheaval and uncertainty and really just escalated from there. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic support from our families and students; without your efforts this term would have been significantly more difficult than it was. I would also like to extend a massive thank you to the incredible staff here who have supported, encouraged and worked tirelessly to provide the best possible educational programs for our students. Well done to all concerned and enjoy a very well deserved break.

In COVID related news, the SACE Board have announced that in some of subjects extra accommodations (above those already in place) are being applied to support Stage 2 students through the disruptions to learning this year. The subjects concerned for our students are Biology, English, Food & Hospitality, General Mathematics, Industry & Entrepreneurial Solutions, Material Solutions, Mathematical Methods, Visual Arts and Workplace Practices. If you would like more information about what these are, please contact the subject teachers concerned.

Stage 2 Research Project

Last newsletter I promised a subject snapshot – and here it is. All of our Stage 2 students undertake Research Project as part of their studies; in fact it is a compulsory component of the SACE.

To quote the SACE Board, " The Research Project provides a valuable opportunity for SACE students to develop and demonstrate skills essential for learning and living in a changing world. It enables students to develop vital skills of planning, research, synthesis, evaluation, and project management.
The Research Project enables students to explore an area of interest in depth, while developing skills to prepare them for further education, training, and work. Students develop their ability to question sources of information, make effective decisions, evaluate their own progress, be innovative, and solve problems." (Research Project B Subject Outline, p.1)

What does that mean in more student friendly terms – it is a subject where the student can pick an area of significant personal interest and deeply investigate and explore it. As a result of this in depth exploration, students will develop real world skills in the areas of critical analysis, identifying bias, developing logical solutions to problems and using evidence to support their opinions. Above all else they will realise that for all problems a solution is out there somewhere, and feel confident in using their skills to find it.

As students get to identify an area of personal interest, it means that as the teacher I have to take a significant step back from more traditional teaching methods (being that I don't know a lot about many of their topics), becoming very much a guide and mentor instead. The quality of learning that students demonstrate in the subject is always impressive. This year we have students exploring areas as varied as the AFL's concussion regulations, to the cost effectiveness of building versus buying a trailer, making a new tray for a farm ute, the varying types of personal investment strategies available and the positive cognitive benefits of good early childhood nutrition. As I said, some fantastic and diverse topics.

Perhaps most significant of all is the level of personal satisfaction and growth that students experience during RP. If using grades as a marker of success in a subject, then we do very well. In every year since the subject's inception in 2011 our cohort have performed above the state average in terms of grade achieved, and far above the state average in high level (A and B+ grades) acheivement.

I'm very passionate myself about the subject, regularly telling anyone who will listen that it is the most rewarding subject I teach and certainly a favourite. Our students enjoy it as well, albeit sometimes not seeing all the benefits until they have finished it! To quote one of the current crop of students, "Being able to research my own topic of interest, on a time frame I've created has really shown me the important parts of planning out what to do with your own time and how to manage it." (Jordan Minks) If you have any questions about the subject, please feel free to get in contact. Towards the end of next term I will share some examples of student work as well.

As always if you have any questions about Senior School related matters, don't hesitate to call me here at school or send me an email to: glen.white872@schools.sa.edu.au

Have a wonderful break.

Glen White
Senior School Coordinator

Primary School News

Term 1
It has been a huge term! The children in the primary years have been as adaptable and flexible as ever. The staff have appreciated the high levels of communication from when children were unwell or needing to isolate. The primary staff would like to say a huge thank you for parental support with the home learning when this was necessary. Next term we are hoping that things will settle down somewhat to allow for optimum learning opportunities.

Traffic Lights and Learning Conversations
The Traffic Lights went home a couple of weeks ago and some parents were contacted to have Learning Conversations. These conversations allowed parents and teachers to discuss the issues students were facing and the strategies that are in place to address them. Only those children who received a red or an orange on the Traffic Lights were contacted by care group teachers for phone Learning Conversations. If any parent would like to discuss their child's progress at any time, please contact the care group teacher to organise a time for a phone meeting.

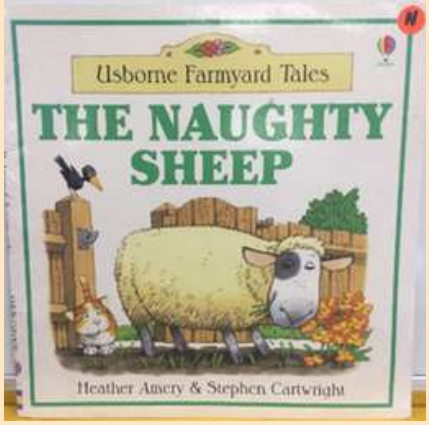
Reading
During the holidays is a great time to promote reading. Parents of younger children can read with their child. Parents of independent readers can encourage them to read in their leisure time. The library is open during the first week of the holidays and children are able to come in borrow books if they run out of reading material. Check holiday opening times for the library.

Barb Agnew
Primary School Coordinator

Primary School News

Reception Class

In our class we really enjoy sharing books and talking about the books we have read. Each week we read a big book together and one of the books we have read is called 'The Naughty Sheep.' In this story Woolley the sheep got into her owner's garden and ate lots of the flowers! Then she escaped from her yard and followed her family to the local show. Even though Woolley was being a bit naughty, she actually won the best sheep award! Her family was very pleased and then they all walked home together with the special trophy that Woolley had won. After we shared our thoughts and ideas about the story, we drew a picture of our favourite part. Mrs Coe scribed a sentence for us about our picture. We really enjoyed this book!



Middle School News

Term 1 is drawing to a close and we have made it as productive a period as possible in the Middle School. Last week we held our Middle School Learning Conversations, providing an opportunity for students to discuss their learning goals and reflect on the progress that they have made in front of their parents/caregivers and teachers. The conversations also provided the chance for students to re-evaluate and identify new ideas for goal setting next term. Gaining confidence in using oral language skills during these learning conversations is also an invaluable skill for students to help them develop their interpersonal skills to support their future lives. If you missed the opportunity to attend the Middle School Learning Conversations, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teachers to arrange a time to discuss your their learning. Those students who were not involved in the Middle School Learning Conversations are having their goal reflections recorded. These will be shared directly with families concerned.

Learning Conversations this semester were held via video link-up on TEAMS, a departure from face-to-face sessions due to COVID-19 restrictions. To improve future Learning Conversations your feedback via this anonymous survey would be much appreciated.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MGM9KG2

I wish you all a safe and relaxing holiday period and look forward to Term 2. Please get in contact with me if you have any questions/concerns/issues with anything throughout the year. My email address is stephen.talbot110@schools.sa.edu.au

Stephen Talbot
Middle School Coordinator

Sport News

Our very own Shineah Goody was a stand out during the AFLW National Under 18s Championships game held on Sunday morning, April 10.

Shineah had 43 possessions (10 marks, 17 kicks, 16 handballs).

As a bottom aged player she was a stand out during this clash, and has already been identified in the AFLW Academy.

A second Championship game will be held on Saturday (April 16) against Victoria Country, a curtain-raiser to the Adelaide v Richmond AFL game.
Followed by a third game against NSW/ACT/NT/Tas in Victoria on Friday, April 22.

We look forward to watching Shineah again in action and wish her the best of luck.

MDS trio celebrating their AFLW Premiership

Congratulations girls!

Term 1 Calendar

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
Week 1	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Week 2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			February				
Week 3	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Week 4	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Week 5	28	1	2	3	4	5	6
Week 6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			March				
Week 7	14 Adelaide Cup	15 1500m Run	16 800m Run Canteen Closed	17	18 Athletics Carnival	19	20
Week 8	21 Year 12 Learning Conversations Year 10 Aquatics	22	23 Year 12 Learning Conversations	24 NAPLAN Coordinated Practice	25	26	27
Week 9	28	29 11/12 STEM Workshop	30	31	1	2	3
Week 10	4 MS Learning Conversations Primary School Learning Conversations Wellbeing and Engagement Survey	5	6 MS Learning Conversations	7	8	9	10
			April				
Week 11	11 Primary School Learning Conversations	12	13 Canteen Closed	14 Early Dismissal 2pm	15 Good Friday	16 Easter Saturday	17 Easter Sunday
	18 Easter Monday	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25 ANZAC Day	26	27	28	29	30	1

**All External dates to be confirmed dependent on Covid restrictions*

Term 2 Calendar

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
Week 1	2 Student Free Day	3	4 SYP Cross Country	5	6 Yr11/12 Careers Trip	7	8
Week 2	9	10 Naplan Online	11 Naplan Online	12 Naplan Online	13 Naplan Online	14	15
Week 3	16 Naplan Online	17 Naplan Online	18 Naplan Online	19 Naplan Online	20 Naplan Online	21	22
Week 4	23	24 7/8 9 a-side Football	25	26	27	28	29
Week 5	30	31	1 7/8 & Open Basketball	2	3	4	5
Week 6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Week 7	13 Queen's Birthday	14 Student Free Day	15	16	17	18	19
Week 8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Week 9	27 Semester 2 begins	28	29	30	1	2	3
Week 10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

May

June

July

**All External dates to be confirmed dependent on Covid restrictions*

SATURDAY 23 APRIL
11AM TO 7PM

SUNDAY 24 APRIL
10AM TO 3PM

GAME TIME!

COPPER COAST TABLETOP GAMERS

AVCON

YORKE PENINSULA COUNCIL
Agriculturally rich~Naturally beautiful

YorKON

FREE GAMES CONVENTION

+ Maitland Market (Sat)!

2022

COVID RULES APPLY

Persons under 13 must be accompanied by an adult

MAITLAND TOWN HALL

7 Robert Street Maitland

Computer Games | Legion of guest "stars"
Table Top Games | Dungeons & Dragons | Tournaments
Pinball | Making | Costume Competition |
Daytona | Workshops | Board Games

WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE COSTUME

Maitland & District Progress Association
Putting Maitland on the map

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Registration Essential: www.yorke.sa.gov.au