



# Happy Holidays

Another year is almost at an end; another year in which things changed rapidly and the only certainty was that there was a degree of uncertainty about what was around the corner. Once again, staff and students at MDS were flexible, innovative and creative, and we forged ahead with our teaching and learning program. We have seen some wonderful learning growth in students at all year levels, and most importantly enjoyed sharing the genuine excitement and pride that the kids have shown as they have realised just how much they have improved. I hope that you will spend some time with your young people when their end of semester reports come home talking about their learning and what their goals for next year might be.

## Colour FUN Run.....



Over the past week I have had the pleasure of reading every students' report before having the opportunity to write my Principal comment. While I gained great satisfaction from doing so, I was also concerned at the number of students whose attendance rate was less than 95%. I thought it might be enlightening to detail the impact of days missed as something to ponder upon over the coming break. There are times when absence is unavoidable, however attendance at school is not just a legal obligation that parents have for their children, but also a moral obligation to ensure that our children have the best possible start in life.

IF YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IS ABOVE 97%

- Your child is an "Excellent Attendee" and likely to be a Star Performer"
- They will most certainly achieve the best grade for their ability
- They have a real opportunity to develop strong friendships
- They are developing a good work ethic

IF YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IS BETWEEN 95% - 97%

- They are on "Green for Go" for good attendance
- They are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies.
- They have a real opportunity to develop strong friendships

IF YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IS BETWEEN 90% - 95%

- They are on "Amber - Take Care"
- They have missed a number of days this term that makes it difficult for them to achieve their best.
- *A child missing this many days a term will miss up to 1 year of schooling between reception and year 10.*

IF YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IS BETWEEN 80% - 90%

- They are on "Red Light - Be aware"
- They have missed so much time from school that it will be very difficult to keep up with work and keep in touch with friends
- *A child missing this many days each term could miss up to 2 years of schooling between reception and year 10.*

IF YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE IS BELOW 80%

- **Immediate action by parent/caregiver is required.**
- They have missed so much time from school it will be almost impossible for them to keep up with their school work or keep in touch with friends
- *A child missing this many days each term could miss up to 3 years of schooling between reception and year 10.*



As we close for the year, we have farewelled a number of staff. In our support team, Tara Gillies is leaving to prepare for an imminent arrival, while Kelly Porter's departure earlier in the term is also acknowledged. Both have been wonderful additions to our team and we sincerely thank them for their contribution. Also leaving us to await an impending birth is Jess Hills. We wish Jess, Dave and Charlie all the best when baby Hills arrives early next year. Kate Sheppard was farewelled today as she moves on to a position at Adelaide Botanic High School; we wish Kate well on what will be an exciting next step in her professional journey. On Wednesday afternoon, we spent a lovely time farewelling a stalwart of our school. Nick Player, who began teaching at Minlaton High School in 1976, and has spent most of his career here, will spend his final day in the classroom tomorrow. Nick's career has spanned almost 50 years, and his anecdotes, dad jokes and amazing professionalism has touched the lives of many in our local community and beyond. Nick has always had the best interests of the students in his classes at the forefront of everything he does, and he has made a positive difference in the lives of many, both staff and students. We wish both he and Margaret well for the future.

And that's a wrap! The 2021 school year draws to a close. Thank you to all who have supported us during the year. Our wonderful Governing Council, who steer the good ship MDS and ensure that we are on course to be the best we can be. Our parents and family members, who nurture and support our young people and entrust us with their education. Our community, who provide our students with opportunities to learn and engage in experiences beyond the classroom walls. Our students, every one of whom make each day something special. And finally, our staff, without whom we would not have such an amazing place of learning, care and support. This is a wonderful school, in a wonderful community. How lucky are we to be here and call it our own?

From our MDS family to yours - have a wonderful holiday season. Stay safe, go well and see you all in January!

Now...to the beach!

Ali



# Presentation Night Award Winners

Year 3	Merit	Naida Coe	Middle School 'Thriving Learner' Award		Joseph Rothe
		Archie Cook	Year 10	Merit	Shorna Boshier
		Will McDonald			Macey Coe
	Achievement	Brayden Krieg			Jessica Farrow
		Jett Polkinghorne		Achievement	Kayne Dunstone
		Dylan Thompson			Shineah Goody
Year 4	Merit	Nicholas Preedy	Year 11	Merit	Rory Hackett
		Darcy Walsh			Mavrik Harper-Zerna
		Saxon Williams			Jonathan Wimpenny
	Achievement	Georgina Brown		Achievement	Haillie Borgmeyer
		Harry Dale			James McSkimming
		Marlie Jeffrey			Noah Newbold
Year 5	Merit	Annabelle Cook	Year 12 High Achievement		
		Isobel Cook		Biology	Natalie Blyth
		Angus Coote		Chemistry	Natalie Blyth
	Achievement	Lowan Coe		English	Amelia Rothe
		Charlie Mahar		Food & Hospitality	Sophie Longbottom
		Riley Stubberfield		General Mathematics	Joshua Wilson
	Mavis Hele 'Thriving Learner' Award	Isobel Cook Angus Coote		Industry & Entrepreneurial Solutions	Elliott Goody
				Material Solutions	Harry Wilson
Year 6	Merit	Hamish Coombe		Mathematical Methods	Natalie Blyth
		Anais Glazbrook		Physics	Elliot Goody
		Maggie Walsh		Research Project	Joshua Wilson
	Achievement	Mackenzie White		Society & Culture	Amelia Rothe
		Kitty Wilson	Open Learning	Psychology	Isabella Varrichio
Year 7	Merit	James Cook	VET Outstanding Achievement		Noah Newbold
		Matilda Cook			
		Addison Sandercock	Fraser Ellis MP Award		Haillie Borgmeyer
	Achievement	Khiana Gates			
		Thomas Phillips	Rowan Ramsay MP School Community Award		Lee Blyth
		Alice Polkinghorne			
Year 8	Merit	Eleanor Brown	Long Tan Award	Year 10	Macey Coe
		Natalie Horn		Year 12	Natalie Blyth
		Lucy Mahar			
		Layla Walsh	Ampol Best Allrounder Award		Lachlan Coombe
	Achievement	Nasrin Hickman			
		Ava Vass	Chairperson's Award for Leadership & Service		Natalie Blyth
Year 9	Merit	Joseph Rothe			
		Madison-Lee Ryan	Principal's 'Thriving Learner' Award		Natalie Blyth
		Freddie Wilson			
	Achievement	-	Principal's Award for Academic Achievement		Natalie Blyth
			Primary Sportsperson		Hamish Coombe
			Secondary Sportsperson		Freddie Wilson
			Year 12 Sportsperson		Sophie Longbottom



# Presentation Night Award Winners



# Middle School News

In Week 8, the Middle School Camp was held at Corny Point from Monday 29th November to Wednesday 1st December. Students were involved in 3 days of aquatics at Berry Bay, beach walks, sporting activities, entertaining challenges and a local quiz. The group stayed at the Corny Point Caravan Park in tents and swags and had perfect weather for the whole event. It was great to see the students from all ages interacting together and having fun to finish off an excellent year. The camp was supported by RIF funding, reducing the cost for all involved. Images from the camp can be seen below.



On Monday, a group of students were involved in the Middle School Incentive Scheme Reward Day. 25 students attended the day, based on results from the MS Incentive Scheme throughout the year. Well done to all involved, especially the Term 4 winners including Alice Polkinghorne, Joe Rothe, Drey Williams, Addison Sandercock, Layla Walsh, Hamish Coombe, Tyrone Brown, Lucy Mahar and Matilda Cook. Students were rewarded with a movie in the morning, followed by an afternoon at Port Rickaby.

We hope you all have a fantastic holiday and festive period and look forward to seeing you all again for another great year at MDS in 2022.

Josh Coombe and Craig Fitzgerald  
**Middle School Coordinators**

## Year 12 Celebration Dinner

