Dear Parents/Caregivers

Term 3 is an opportunity for me to continue reflecting on student achievement and what actually makes a difference to student learning, 'Mindset' and the work of Carol Dweck certainly at the fore of my reading and thinking last term. This term I would like to introduce you to the work of John Hattie. Hattie has studied students and teachers and education systems across the world over the past 15 years and his recently published research into effect size has certainly challenged the traditional thinking of what actually makes the biggest difference in student outcomes and what this means for students, teachers and families. One of the biggest influences on student success is the expectation they have of themselves. This is quite different from teacher expectations and parent expectations. If a student has high expectations of themselves this can potentially have an effect size of up to a measure of 1.0. This means that they are able to achieve up to or more than an extra year of progress in one year. If a student has low or no expectations of themselves as a learner then it also has the opposite effect. Our challenge is to encourage children to strive to learn whilst always raising the bar and expectations so they never actually achieve them. This means they are always progressing, always learning.

PS Sheree - Your dedication to help children learn and progress is greatly appreciated.

Mardi McClintock
Principal

Tamarin Condon
Deputy Principal

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8th Sept  
Music is Fun Performance

26th Sept  
6pm Finance Meeting

7pm Governing Council Meeting

29th Sept  
Learning Hub Concert

30th Sept  
End of term  
early dismissal 2:15pm

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Important Dates

22nd August  
6pm Finance Meeting

7pm Governing Council Meeting

22nd August  
Book Week

24th August  
Book Week Reading Night

26th August  
9am Dress Up Day Parade

2nd Sept  
2pm Assembly Yr 4/5 & LC 14 & LC15

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Class Placement 2017

At the end of this term and over the first five weeks of Term 4, we begin the task of placing children into classes for 2017. Many factors are taken into consideration by teachers - placement with friends; splitting children who do not work well together or who are too dependent on one another; gender balance; a balance within a class of academic abilities; children with special needs and behaviour issues, etc. Staff spend considerable time during the staff meetings to organise students in class groups. Once classes are finalised, then teachers are assigned to classes. This may not occur until the end of Term 4 or until the January holidays, if staff are not appointed until that time.

If parents believe they have information, based on educational needs, which will help with their child's placement, please put this information in a letter addressed to the Principal, marked 'Confidential'. We cannot promise to meet every request; however the information will be taken into consideration. I remind parents that this process is NOT about selecting class teachers but rather information to be considered. Ultimately we need to trust teachers, as the professionals, to make the most informed decisions about students' placement.
All requests need to be received, in writing, at the school no later than Friday, September 30th. It is essential that we know as soon as possible of any future enrolments for the Children’s Centre and school i.e.: Reception children, children moving into the area, so these children can be included in future class placements. We would also appreciate knowing if any families are planning to leave Mulga Street at the end of 2016 so these children are not included in our numbers for 2017 classes.

OUR MAGNIFICENT MAD MINUTERS
Dominic, Jamaica and Abby represented our school at the Lions Mad Minute Grand Challenge Final on July 5th at Mount Gambier High. After winning a place at our school Mad Minute year 5 oral speaking competitions, they then took on the challenge from McDonald Park, Reidy Park, St Martins Lutheran and Tenison Woods College. Dominic, Jamaica and Abbey collected the Division 1 Championship and Jamaica won the second place speaker trophy. This oral language challenge helps students learn the beginnings of debating. All 3 students took on the challenge to try something new, worked out their comfort zone in order to pursue their personal best. Well done!

INDIGENOUS GARDEN
Exciting News!!! We have now planted out our Indigenous Garden and received our Limestone carving, kindly donated by the Brennan Family. All of our Indigenous students and a friend planted the garden at the end of term 2. We are currently waiting for the bench to be finished and then will have an official opening.

COUNSELLOR’S CORNER
Friendship Skills
At Mulga Street we run several programs which relate to our children building onto their social and emotional wellbeing, our ‘What’s the Buzz,’ ‘Play is the Way’ and ‘Playful Learning’ programs all promote this. We also realize how important it is to our children not only to make friends but to maintain friendships. I thought you might like to take a look and discuss with your child some skills relating to making and keeping friends. Kids can be picky about who they play and mix with. Popularity should not be confused with sociability. A number of studies in recent decades have shown that appearance, personality type and ability impact on a child’s popularity at school. Good-looking, easy-going, talented kids usually win peer popularity polls but that doesn’t necessarily guarantee they will have friends. Those children and young people who develop strong friendships have a definite set of skills that help make them easy to like, easy to relate to and easy to play with.

Here are twelve essential skills that children have identified as being important for making and keeping friends:
1. Ability to share possessions and space
2. Keeping confidences and secrets
3. Offering to help

MSPS TRACK PANTS
For anyone wanting to order Mulga Street Primary School tracksuit pants for winter, we will be taking orders up until FRIDAY AUGUST 19TH (END OF WEEK 4). They are $35.00 a pair. Please contact front office staff.
4. Accepting other's mistakes
5. Being positive and enthusiastic
6. Starting a conversation
7. Winning and losing well
8. Listening to others
9. Starting and maintaining a conversation
10. Ignoring someone who is annoying you
11. Cooperating with others
12. Giving and receiving compliments

Friendship skills are generally developmental. That is, kids grow into these skills given exposure to different situations and with adult help. In past generations 'exposure to different situations' meant opportunities to play with each other, with siblings and with older and younger friends. They were reminded by parents about how they should act around others. They were also 'taught' from a very young age. Thanks, Mr E

PARENT CLUB

The Parent Club is a small but dedicated group of parents who are working hard to support the school and the students. Currently there are 5 active members, Bec Radford, Lana Trnovsky, Renae Lowe, Sara Hewitson and Amiee Smith but new members are always welcome, the only requirements are a current Police Check and enthusiasm.

Each year there is a major goal. Last year the Large Art Room received new benches and cupboards and a new huge oven. This year, it's to replace the chairs and tables in the Large Art Room. There are also many smaller requests that are supported through fundraising. Just 2 examples include: financial support for camps and excursions, keeping the costs down for families and slowly but surely the blinds in classrooms are being replaced so that it is easier for the students to see the smart boards without needing the blinds permanently shut.

Though we are always seeking new members, what we really need is support from the schools community with the fundraising. As part of the trial, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake 2 online readiness tests. Each test will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. It is important that we participate in this trial before the system is officially in use in 2017 to enable familiarisation with the system in a classroom setting. Participation will allow us to confirm that every school is ready and that our teachers are confident that their students will be able to participate fully. This trial will help our site to be well prepared to complete NAPLAN online in 2017 and provide feedback into final changes at a state wide level.

CHOIR NEWS

The choir has been rehearsing each week on a Monday between 12.15pm and 1.15pm in the school hall and this year we have been joined by 6 students from Compton Primary School who have been supported by Kristyn Dawe. The children have been working well to learn the required 14 songs that will be sung at The Adelaide Festival of Music on September 17th and are looking forward to performing for the school community later this term as a part of our Learning Hub Concert. On Tuesday August 23rd we will be very fortunate to have Robynne Jaeschke visit our school to work with the choir on the set songs for the Festival. It is also an opportunity for the students to sing with a larger choir and develop their choral singing skills. Later on this term Robyn Filmer will visit the school to work with all choir students and the students travelling to Adelaide to perform on September 17th.

Finally, a well-earned congratulations must go to Caitlin Letizia and Bonnie Camm who have been successful in winning solos and will perform as a part of the South East Festival of Music to be held in Mt Gambier in October.

NAPLAN ONLINE

NAPLAN Online - Getting ready for 2017

The Australian Government is committed to delivering NAPLAN online from 2017, with all schools across the nation transitioning over a 2 to 3 year period.

This change will provide each child with a more personalised learning experience and a better assessment. It also means that the results will be returned to you and your child’s teachers within a few weeks, rather than several months.

Our school will be participating in a trial of the new online system in August 2016. This trial is not a ‘test of content, it is a test of how the new online system will work in a real-life classroom environment. You may hear this trial referred to as the NAPLAN Online Readiness Trial. As part of the trial, students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will undertake 2 online readiness tests. Each test will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. It is important that we participate in this trial before the system is officially in use in 2017 to enable familiarisation with the system in a classroom setting. Participation will allow us to confirm that every school is ready and that our teachers are confident that their students will be able to participate fully. This trial will help our site to be well prepared to complete NAPLAN online in 2017 and provide feedback into final changes at a state wide level.

Safety, Trust, Respect
As a part of our learning in Digital Technology with Miss Crow last term, we got to pull apart and identify some of the different components that make up a computer and how they work. We also learnt about Binary coding. Binary coding is used in computer programs and electronics. The Binary number system has only 2 numbers - 1 and 0. We used Binary coding to create short messages.