



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and  
Child Development

## Mulga Street Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No.20

Mulga Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Phone - 87259955

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Visit our web site at: [www.mulgaps.sa.edu.au](http://www.mulgaps.sa.edu.au)

Dear Parents/Caregivers

As we approach the end of the year it is timely to reflect on the year that was. For this reason, a random selection of families has been generated to send out a paper copy of the parent opinion survey. As a staff we use this data to prioritise areas for improvement. These are anonymous and can be handed to the front office staff at any time before the end of the year.

Next week the students will wind up the school year and we would encourage all families to have a look for any library books that may be hiding under beds or in cupboards. Every year hundreds of dollars' worth of library resources are not returned. Transition this year will take place for all classes in week 9. All students will be directed to their new teacher for 2017 and will spend a short period with their teacher on this day. In the event that a teacher is not known then a member of staff will be allocated to your child's class. Placing children in classes is a complex process; staff spend significant time placing children and do not rely on a computer to place students as is the case in many schools. We rely on parents to trust our judgement, let their children experience change and build resilience. We may make minor changes in the new year if we feel the change is in the best interest of the child.

*Mardi McClintock*

Principal

*Tamarin Condon*

Deputy Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES

8 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30pm MP Values Awards Assembly
8 <sup>th</sup> December	2018 Year 7 Camp Deposit Due
12 <sup>th</sup> December	10am Early Years Values Awards Assembly
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 7 Graduation
13 <sup>th</sup> December	2018 Year 7 Windcheater Deposit and Orders Due
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Middle School Pool Day
13 <sup>th</sup> December	12pm JP Values Awards Assembly
14 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30pm MS Values Awards Assembly
15 <sup>th</sup> December	2.15pm END OF SCHOOL YEAR

## FAMILY OPINION SURVEYS

It is time to collect our family opinions regarding teaching and learning, your child's sense of wellbeing and safety at school, and your experience of how well staff work with you to support your child's learning. Families were randomly selected and sent a one page survey this week. Responses are due into the box provided in the front office by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December. It is most important that we hear your opinions and you take the opportunity to give feedback about what works well and what can improve.

## WELLBEING



### Making the Most of School Holidays

You don't need an instruction manual to make the most of the school holidays. After all, holidays are about kicking your feet up, relaxing and getting away from the usual routines. Right?

For parents the prospect of keeping children occupied for several weeks can be daunting. Holidays can also be a difficult and lonely time for some. Sole parents and step-parents usually experience particular challenges at this time of the year as family catch-ups cause conflict, and disputes can arise over who children spend their time with. Often family differences are contained during the year but spill over when normal routines cease over the holiday period.

Here are some ways to help reduce tension over the school holidays and make this time enjoyable and fruitful for all:

#### 1. Mix up the routines.

The best part about holidays is the change from the routines of school-life. Some kids feel comfortable with the routines of school-life and can feel a little lost until the new holiday routine kicks in. Be patient with these routine junkies! Also make sure you begin adjusting the routine as returning to school comes closer so kids are prepared for going to bed and getting up at earlier times.

## 2. Mix 'me' time with 'them' time.

Plan a mixture of outdoor activities or trips with quiet at home activities where you can relax and recharge your own batteries. The holidays give you a chance to spend time as a family but you also need to take some time for yourself each day. It helps to let your kids know that you are having some timeout too.

## 3. Resist being your child's home entertainment machine.

Give children opportunities to keep themselves occupied or think of inexpensive, fun ways to keep themselves amused. "I'm bored" is an invitation for kids to keep themselves occupied rather than for you to keep them amused.

**Have a wonderful Christmas and safe New Year.**

### PCW NEWS

Tips to help transitions and separation.

As young children transition to a change of classroom there can be some anxiety for both the child and the parents. Separation anxiety is a normal reaction. Leaving the familiar faces of teachers and entering into a new environment can be difficult for anyone.

Sometimes the pain of separation seems to hurt us more than our children. Most children quickly adapt to a new classroom, especially if it is in the same school with familiar friends.

- Know Your Child, and Realize that Each Child's Response Is Different. We all want our children to take to their caregivers with eager enthusiasm, but children's responses to transition and separation depend upon their age, temperament, and experience.

- Be Positive. Our children have incredible intuitive skills. They sense our anxiety and hesitation. As the first day for transition draws near, begin talking to your child about what to expect and about any concerns or fears they might have. Present school as a place where he'll learn new things and make friends.

- Establish a Drop-Off Ritual Developing a quick, simple way to say "good-bye" and reassuring our children that we will return, will help separation go more smoothly. Sneaking out creates a sense of mistrust.

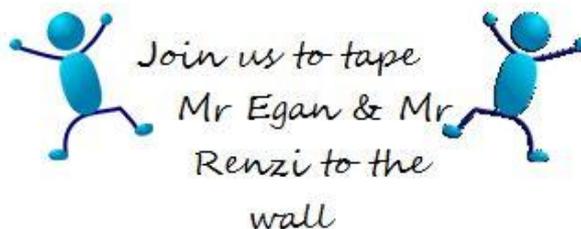
- Tune-In to Your Child's Behaviour. During times of change, our children may have behaviour regressions, delayed reactions or even outbursts at pick-up time. It's all normal. We can reassure them with positive comments, physical affection, and love.

Adapting to transition and overcoming separation anxiety may take time for some of us, both young and old. Transition times are learning times for our children and us. Remember that becoming comfortable in a new

classroom is an ongoing process, not just a single event. Our children learn through consistent experience that each goodbye, as hard as it may be, is followed by our happy return.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

## TAPE-A-TEACHER



50c for a length of tape, buy as many as you like....

Thursday Week 9, lunchtime  
Area 1

Everyone is welcome!!

Mulga Street Primary  
Parent Fundraiser

Limestone Community News  
Charity Christmas Giveaway  
OVER \$2000 IN PRIZES  
TO ENTER, VISIT  
[WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/SEAWL](http://WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/SEAWL)  
OR SCAN ME!  
Proudly supporting... SEAWL  
SOUTH EAST ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE

## LC20 Town Planning Showcase

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of November the students of LC20 hosted a Town Planning Showcase. The event was an opportunity for students to celebrate the hard work they have done over the last 2 terms, to design a town, culminating in a final showcase where students created a sales pitch to convince the audience that their town was the most livable. During the 2 terms students conducted surveys amongst local schools and businesses, sought advice from experts in the field of town planning, created maps, wrote a range of informative and persuasive texts and created models of their towns based on their findings.

At the end of the evening, Ben Kilsby from the City Council of Mount Gambier, Mardi McClintock and Tamarin Condon judged "Bunning Bay" as the Most Outstanding Town.

A big thank you to all those friends, families and guests who attended the evening and congratulations to all the students for their hard work.





We would we also like to acknowledge the following sponsors who donated funds towards the purchasing of materials:

