



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Mulga Street Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No.15

Mulga Street, Mount Gambier SA 5290

Phone - 87259955

Thursday September 7th 2017

Visit our web site at: www.mulgaps.sa.edu.au

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The term is rapidly coming to an end. Did you know that it is only 16 weeks until Christmas!!

As the term comes to an end we are required to collect data for the department around reading achievement. The department then analyses the data and provides the school with a report of our achievement compared against the state, like schools and previous cohorts. This occurs every year at this time. We then reflect on our intervention programs and how best to support children to meet the DECD minimum standard of level 5 by the end of foundation, level 13 by the end of year 1 and level 21 by the end of year 2. Listening to your child read every night for 10mins out loud, practising sight words and asking comprehension questions helps them to achieve this. The comprehension questions should not only be about information directly stated in the text but also inferred understanding – reading between the lines for deeper meaning; this may also include reading the pictures for feelings and emotion. Some data around attendance; we are currently achieving 92% attendance; our goal is 94%. This year we have had 4146.5 absences with 1830 absences unexplained. 2249 incidences of lateness with term 3 currently at 382. We ask all families to be diligent with attendance and ensure children are at school on time and to contact the school to notify any absences, this can be a phone call to the front office or a note to the classroom teacher.

As the term draws to a close all classes in the learning centre are busy practising their concert items for Sept 22nd. We are so fortunate to be able to perform in a world class theatre and it is an opportunity many students will not have again as they move onto high school in 2018. We encourage all students to participate as it builds their social and emotional capabilities and is an assessment piece for many classes. We would ask families not to give children the option to opt out but rather talk with them about their concerns and encourage GRIT – Guts, Resilience, Initiative and Tenacity.

Mardi McClintock
Principal

Tamarin Condon
Deputy Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

8th September

8am Canteen Meeting

11th September

6pm Finance Meeting

13-15th September

7pm Governing Council Mtg

Year 5/6 Camp Cape Bridgewater

21st September

Pie Drive Money Due

22nd September

7pm LC Concert

26th September

10.15pm Early Years (R/1) Assembly

27th September

12pm Junior Primary (Yr2/3) Assembly

28th September

3pm Pie Drive Pick Up from Gym

QKR! APP



Don't forget to download the Qkr! App on your phone or tablet. Search for the app in the app store, this is a new easier payment option we are making available to parents to pay for school/preschool/music fees, uniforms, excursions, incursion and pay for lunches from our canteen. For more information on how to install please contact the front office.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER



So What Is The BIG Deal About Attendance

To be put really simply, to give children the best opportunity to learn they must attend school as often as possible.

I have collected the data concerning attendance from last term and there are some interesting results. But before we look at this, it is necessary to understand that data may not show the full story.

The ideal is that all students attend school every day. The reality is that 100% attendance is not always possible. We definitely don't want sick children at school. It is not in their best interests and sick kids can

spread their illness to other kids. At times medical and other appointments can only be made in school times. As long as the school is notified about these then of course it is OK. There are times when children become tired and worn down, especially the juniors. Often having an occasional day at home is a good preventative measure to ensure that they do not become ill and miss more school.

Our data shows

- 73 children have attended school every day this term.
- 65% of our students have 94% or better attendance i.e. they have missed no more than 3 days.
- Approx 7.6% of students have missed at least 10 school days this term. Some of these absences were quite legitimate e.g. death in families, prolonged illness, family holidays. Others, unfortunately, have questionable legitimacy. Missing one school day per week over five years means you have missed one year of schooling!
- A total of 4300 absent days have been recorded this year. This is too high.

When your child is absent, parents and caregivers are obliged to notify the school with a reason. This needs to be a note, email or a phone call. (It cannot be the child coming to school giving an explanation for their absence.) This fulfils our legal responsibility to record reasons for absences but also means we have an understanding of what is happening in a child's life and can cater for them appropriately.

What has the lateness data shown?

The data shows that 37% of our students have been late to school this term. Before we get too upset by this piece of information some clarification is needed. Many of these latenesses were due to appointments at the beginning of the day and the occasional 'We slept in.' Having said that, a total of 2271 late days have been recorded this year.

The flip side of this is that 63% of students are never late! That's pretty good.

The data shows that 19 students have had 5 or more late arrivals this term. This represents 5.1% of our school population. Occasionally it is the students fault for their lateness however, it is important that families work together if this becomes an issue.

Staff complete roll books at the beginning of the school day and late students are marked absent. A child arriving at school at 9:00am or after is required to sign in at the Front Office. In case of an emergency we need to know who is on site.

A Reminder School Starts at 8.45

If your child is reluctant to attend school please make contact with the Class teacher, Mardi, Tamarin or myself so that we can put in place strategies to assist.

James Egan - Student wellbeing Leader

CLASS PLACEMENT 2018

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 2018.

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 29th

It is essential that we know as soon as possible of any future enrolments for the Children's Centre and school ie: 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 2017 so these children are not included in our numbers for 2018 classes.

MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGE

A reminder that the Materials & Services Charge (school fees) are now due.

If you have not applied for School Card and believe you may be eligible, please collect a School Card form from the Front Office. School Card must be applied for every year.

Thank you to those families who have made arrangements with the school to pay the fees by instalment.

If you wish to pay by instalment please speak to Sue Shaw (Finance Officer) ASAP. Please do not hesitate to contact Sue if you have any issues in regard to the payment of school fees.



BOOK WEEK

I would like to recognise and thank these wonderful people who volunteered their time and enthusiasm, with the kindness of their hearts, helping to make all that is Book Week and the celebration of reading awesome: Helen Staskevicius, Sheree Earl, Alex Gurney, Irene Smulders, Naomi Brick, Helen Egan, Jessi Tata, Nick VanderHeyden, Claudia Prospero-Porta, Ben & Thomas Staskevicius; our Committee members - Chris Schebella, Paul Frost, Jude Coleman, Jess Hill, Tamarin Condon, Gaynor Whitby, Mardi McClintock, Leanne Tincknell, Pip Crowe, Emily Perryman, Gail Lewis, Michael Skipp, Kendall Proud, Rose Povey, Stephen Osborne and Ken Milsop. I'd also like to especially acknowledge our Student Leaders – Luke, Bonnie, Marni and Megan for their time and contribution in helping to make Book Week a huge success. Thanks also to the Mulga Street Community for your support and outstanding effort in getting children dressed up for the Parade on Friday (despite the rain!) **Karen Pink**

LEARNING CENTRE CONCERT DVD

We would like to offer families the opportunity to pre-purchase a copy of the learning centre concert on DVD. All orders must be ordered and pre-paid by 18th September 2017. DVD's are \$30 each and are professionally edited by Rob Tremelling. Please complete the order form and return with payment to the front office. Please note a minimum number of 20 orders is required.

Learning Centre Concert DVD Order Form

Name _____

Class _____

Order _____ copies Learning Centre Concert DVD @\$30

Money Enclosed \$_____

Signed _____

MULGA STREET CHOIR

The choir rehearses each week on a Monday between 12.15pm and 1.15pm in the school hall and this year have been joined by 9 students from Compton Primary School. The children have been working well to learn the required 14 songs that will be sung at the South

East Primary Schools' Music Festival, and are looking forward to performing for the school community later this term as a part of our Learning Centre Concert, "Dream Big".

Throughout the course of the year the students have had the opportunity to work with Robynne Jaeschke, Musical Director SEPSMF through a variety of cluster visits and solo workshops.

This year we are fortunate to have a number of students who will be representing our school as either a soloist or compere. Well-earned congratulations must go to Chelsea and Bonnie who have been successful in winning solos and Marni who will compere our concert on Thursday 26th



October as a part of the South East Festival of Music to be held in Mt Gambier in October.

Parents are reminded that ticket orders are due this **Monday the 11th September by close of business, all tickets are \$18 and if this date is missed then parents will need to purchase tickets through the box office located at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre and these transactions will incur a \$2 fee.**

Tamarin Condon

SSO WEEK AT MULGA STREET

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our ancillary staff for the wonderful work that they do each day to support us in providing a quality education for the students of Mulga Street Primary School. On Tuesday of this week we held a morning tea recognising our ancillary staff and presented them each with a small token of our appreciation.

BANK DETAILS

Account Name: Mulga Street Primary School Council Inc
Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
BSB: 065-504
Account Number: 10362131

PARENT CLUB NEWS

Parent Club would like to thank those that came and supported our recent BBQ fundraiser we held at Coles. We would also like to thank the teachers that came along and helped for the day, very much appreciated! We have our annual pie drive happening and would love for you to buy some pies and now that we have the QKR app it should be much easier for you! We always welcome new faces so if you would like to join us at our next meeting contact Bec Radford on 0447036606.



Safety, Trust, Respect





BOOK WEEK 2017

WWW.TURBOCOLLAGE.COM

