Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The year certainly is off to a busy start combined with the hottest and wettest days on record. Initially we have been keeping children inside to avoid the extreme heat and reminding them to drink, put on their hats and apply sunscreen regularly, then we have a downpour with the cool change and warnings like this coming in from DECD...

The State Emergency Service advises that people should:
* Move vehicles under cover or away from trees;
* Secure or put away loose items around your property.
* Don’t drive, ride or walk through flood water;
* Keep clear of creeks and storm drains;
* Stay indoors, away from windows, while conditions are severe.

What was it that Dorothea Mackellar said of Australia in her famous poem ‘I love a sunburnt country; a land of sweeping plains; of rugged mountain ranges; of droughts and flooding rains; through flood and fire and famine she pays us back threefold’? Dorothea certainly captured the essence of the weather in Australia. A big positive from these drenching rains is that the Bangor fires are now under control and mostly extinguished and this brings local Mannum CFS volunteers who 5 children and their families will have joined the efforts of so many units there.

**A settled start**

Well done to our very youngest students in Reception and our oldest students in Year 12 for getting settled so quickly and being ready for learning and positive outcomes. It is very encouraging to see. The “same first day” initiative means that the age range of our intake Reception students is different from previous years but very good things are happening with their learning already. Ms de Ravin has shown me her learning overviews for Term One and I think it would be great to be in her class as a beginning student. I have seen many of the SACE LAP's - learning assessment plans which are required for Stage 1 & 2 and have enjoyed reading them as well. Similarly when I pass the Year 12 students in their various classes or home group room they are focussed and settled and it has been great to hear comments like “Student X has complet-ed all of his work and is ahead of schedule”.

**Our renovated playgrounds**

I know the R-5 children and their families will really enjoy the day when the barriers come down. The delays have been beyond our control, some supplies were not available at the right time and the extreme weather made some days impossible to get on with the job. Then there is the waiting period while the rubber compound cures correctly so that it is long lasting. The colour scheme is wonderful, the workmanship very sound indeed and I am sure the waiting will make us all appreciate using these two facilities all the more. I do thank everyone for their patience. I also thank the Site Improvement Committee for their vision and long term planning and Ms Hunt and the Finance Committee for developing a budget that enables us to support these plans, our school site continues to improve and offer our students and families better facilities, a very constructive and positive working relationship with DPTI has developed over the years enabling the improvement to continue.

**Splash Dash**

Finally the extreme heat eased enough to enable us to hold the swimming events, in fact it was almost perfect weather. More students swam heats or joined in the fun events, house captains rallied behind their teams and helped to keep the day running smoothly, it was a great day! Mr Willson and his team were at Cambrai very early to make sure that everything was ready for the day and a great team of teachers, SSOs and parents quickly packed up at the end of the day. Lunches were delicious and great to see so many families supporting the pre-ordering of food; a big thankyou to Ms Carol Mobbs and her team of helpers for getting the food made and transported to us. The canteen at Cambrai pool supplied extra nibbles and drinks through the day. The order of 1st and 2nd changed in only the last minute of the day making for an exciting result. Congratulations to everyone and well done to the winning team. First: Baseby, Second: Arnold, Third: Randell.

**Reading Matters**

We have made a change to our Silent Reading Strategy, twice a week the whole school will engage in reading, this can be quietly on a big cushion, with a small group around the teacher, book sharing and reading aloud among friends or peer reading in a structured way. We want to “raise the bar” and really promote reading across the school because good readers are more successful students.

**Good WOW News**

We have a small team of Primary students determined to Wipe Out Waste and keep our yard paper free. When Sam Groocock, Hannah Simpson, Ethan James and Shane Lewis saw me this week, they were close to having picked up 1000 pieces of paper or similar rubbish from the school grounds. I thank them for their efforts and encourage other students to keep our yard clean and looking good.

**Parents as learning support at home**

There is opportunity for every parent to help their children to become more numerate and literate at home, while driving the car and even while shopping together. I recently read the following website: there were many good ideas for parents to help their children with better success at school.

**44 Proven Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Their Children Do Better ...**

www.rif.org

Continued next page...
**FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK** (cont)

**Mobilong Rotary – dinner meeting**:
The four students who went to the Health of the River forum camp at Calperum Station last November presented their slide show to the members of the Mobilong Rotary Club. Tegan Irrgang and Jacob Devries spoke very well about their camping adventure and how the camp was organised, Jordon Barker and Brayden Schultz assisted very well with the technology as we had a few glitches to overcome, both boys were asked by the Rotarians about what they would like to do in their future, perhaps they will become involved in conservation and river health as a result of attending this camp. All students received a certificate they can keep in their portfolio.

I am confident that the Mobilong Club will invite future students to represent MCC as we have now had this great opportunity three times. It was special that several parents also attended the dinner to hear the report from the group. I would particularly like to thank Ms Groves for encouraging the students to have a go and then Tegan for the good organisation she demonstrated supporting the camp, getting involved and attending the follow up dinner.

**Playgroup is on again**
In 2013 Ms Bindi Barker provided leadership to our new play group PiNS. The theme for PiNS is “Learning Together” the intention is that parents with young children will come in for playing time, learning time and sharing time and help all young children to get a stronger start to their skill and learning development. We have great resources to share and a large space to enjoy. New parents and children are most welcome. Please give Bindi a call.

**Governing Council Meeting - 10/2/14**
Governing council met for the first time in 2014. We met the new educational director Mr Frank Mittiga. We discussed the behaviour management policy and how we could improve it - to ensure and encourage all students to keep within the guidelines and to promote good positive behavior whilst at school.

We hope everyone will support the ‘Acquaintance Night’ to be held on Tuesday 25th February. This is a great chance to come along, meet your child/ren’s teachers and to familiarize yourselves with other teachers and families in the school. It’s a great opportunity to see how and where your children will be learning throughout 2014 as well as to get an understanding of your child’s classroom rules and expectations. Please remember the night is not about individual children, it’s about meeting and greeting staff, families and other students in a relaxed informal environment. There will be a barbecue so please make the effort to join us if you can.

We approved the first Pupil Free day for 2014. Tuesday March 11th (yes, that makes it an extra-long, long weekend, but it aligns with all the other schools in our partnership). Our teachers will be reviewing the other schools in our partnership. (yes, that makes it an extra-long, long weekend, but we ask that you do not enter classrooms until after the bell. It is very distracting for students if a parent enters when the teacher is giving final instructions.

While correct uniform may seem a trivial concern to some people there are several important reasons that we ask that children wear correct uniform every day. The wearing of uniform has been shown to instil a sense of pride and belonging. It allows every child to be on a level playing field regardless of background. We ask that parents check that their child is in uniform each morning before leaving home. Please check the policy if you are unsure.

Mannum Junior School takes being ‘Sun safe’ seriously with the wearing of appropriate hats, hot weather policies and the use of sunscreen. We ask that you please apply sunscreen to your children before they leave for school in the morning. This will carry them through the recess period. All classes are provided with sunscreen for the students to use. While teachers can not physically apply the cream, children will be reminded to use the sunscreen during Pastoral Care. This gives the required time for it to be absorbed before lunch play. In the junior classes teachers will supervise the children to ensure that they use the cream. Some children are reticent to apply the sunscreen so please talk about the importance of being sun safe and practise applying it at home.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SENIOR LEADER**

**Junior School Senior Leader**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SENIOR LEADER**

We have had a few hot days this term and I would like to remind you that in Term 1 students are required to wear hats during Recess and Lunch breaks, if not they are expected to stay in the shade. Also if the temperature is forecasted to be 36 and above, students will remain in the class at lunch time and maybe Recess. If the temperature at Recess doesn’t exceed 36 then students will be allowed to go outside.

The Middle School staff are making a ‘Push for Excellence’ this year. Our expectation is that every student strives to achieve their best, completes the required work and demonstrates they have the skills to move into the next year of schooling. For some students, in previous years, this did not happen and Middle school staff will not longer be accepting it. Parents will be notified by letter, by teachers and myself, if their child fails to submit required work. If the student fails to submit required work continuously I will be requesting a meeting to discuss what will happen. If a student has a whole year of failing to submit work and parents have been notified of this, the school will be recommending that these students not move into the next year of schooling.

**Leonie Falland**

**Junior School Senior Leader**

**Aliya Daniel**

**Middle School Senior Leader**

**LITTLE THINGS MATTER**

There seems to be a caring, warm atmosphere in the yard in the mornings and I thank parents for this. By modelling respectful behaviours we can see this reflected in the interactions of students. Don’t forget if you have a concern to discuss with the teacher make a time to speak privately - this will usually be after school.

It is great to see so many parents are able to come in and pick their children up at the end of the day but we ask that you do not enter classrooms until after the bell. It is very distracting for students if a parent enters when the teacher is giving final instructions.

While correct uniform may seem a trivial concern to some people there are several important reasons that we ask that children wear correct uniform every day. The wearing of uniform has been shown to instil a sense of pride and belonging. It allows every child to be on a level playing field regardless of background. We ask that parents check that their child is in uniform each morning before leaving home. Please check the policy if you are unsure.

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**Michele Holloway**

**Junior School Senior Leader**

Kind Regards

**Leonie Falland**

“All kids need a little help, a little hope and someone who believes in them”.

Marje Johnson
INFORMATION FOR YOU

DENTAL CARE FOR YOUR CHILDREN

It is important for children to have strong, healthy teeth and gums.

All children (0 – 17 years) are welcome to attend School Dental Service clinics.

Dental treatment is free at School Dental Service clinics if:
- Family Tax Benefit Part A is paid for your child, or
- Your child is covered by a School Card, Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card.

The School Dental Service will bulk-bill under the new Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule that starts in 2014. Under this scheme, most children aged between 2-17 years will be eligible to claim up to $1000 of Dental services over 2 years.

If your child already attends a SA Dental Service clinic, contact us when their next appointment is due. If your child does not already attend one of our clinics, please phone us to make an appointment.

For more information contact your local clinic. Clinic list found at www.sadental.sa.gov.au

SOCcer

Soccer is on the move already. This season is going to be a big one with 2014 World Cup on.

Training Term 1: TUESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL at the school oval.

REGISTRATION DAY: SATURDAY 8th MARCH
9am-12pm at the SCHOOL OVAL.
Please put the dates in your diary :)”

AGE GROUPS
Mixed - u8, u9, u10, u11, u12, u14
Girls - u12, u14, u16
Boys- u16, u17.

Look forward to seeing many new players plus all our players of previous years that have already registered.

GO MANNUM.

Any queries feel free to contact: Kym Strauss on 0417596531 or kym.strauss@bigpond.com

NEW MCC BELL TIMES

8:40 Home Group
8:50 Lesson 1
9:30 Lesson 2
10:10 Lesson 3
10:50 Recess
11:10 Lesson 4
11:50 Lesson 5
12:30 Pastoral Care
12:55 Lunch
1:35 Lesson 6
2:15 Lesson 7
2:55 Home Group
3:05 Home Time

Pedal Prix – 2014

We have begun recruiting students from Year 6 and above for this year’s Australian International Human Powered Vehicle Competition. It would be great to see more students interested. Mr Martin is building a new senior bike with a carbon fibre shell, which will look spectacular when completed and will be more aerodynamic.

The meeting will be held next Wednesday night, 19th February, Week 4 at 3:30pm in the Middle School building. All parents who have children involved are encouraged to attend, as well as the students themselves. This will be a chance to be involved in decision making in regards to our Pedal Prix team and all ideas are welcome.

If you are unable to attend but would like to be involved in future meetings and discussions, please contact the front office to leave a message and I will contact you regarding the outcomes and with further information.

Pedal Prix is a fun and inclusive activity, which promotes teamwork, fitness and responsibility. All students that have been involved have enjoyed themselves and it is a great way to get families together to enjoy the outdoors and excitement of each event.

Regards
Sonny Lombardi

REminder to parents

All students who are late or are departing early - parents MUST provide a note, SMS, phone call or give us reason in person, otherwise the student will be marked ‘absent/unexplained’.

MANNUM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYGROUP

When: 9:30 - 11:00am Tuesday mornings starting week 3, Term 1.
Where: Performing Arts Room, Mannum Community College
Cost: $2.00 per family

Please bring a healthy snack to share at snack time.

Contact Bindi Barker on 85691503 for more information.

The weekly session will enable the school and families to develop partnerships around learning prior to children beginning their education (kindergarten and school) and support families’ engagement in their children’s numeracy and literacy development.
LIBRARY NEWS

**Borrowing Times**

Each class has a borrowing session once a week.

**TUESDAY:** 4/5 Brodie, 3/4 Grieger  
**WEDNESDAY:** 4/5 Rowley  
**THURSDAY:** 2/3 Zrim, 1/2 Bruce, Rec De Ravin  
**FRIDAY:** Rec Laredo, 1/2 Waters

**REC-YR 5** may borrow up to 3 books  
**Yr 6 - Yr 10** may borrow up to 5 books  
**Yr 11 & 12’s** may borrow up to 10 books

The loan limit is three weeks.

Jo Dunn  
Teacher Librarian

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JOY’S CORNER

**The Value of Time:**

To realise the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.  
To realise the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.  
To realise the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.  
To realise the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.  
To realise the value of ONE MINUTE, ask the person who missed the train.  
To realise the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.  
To realise the value of ONE MILISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Time is valuable, let’s use it wisely – ‘Seize the day’

Joy Marks,  
Christian Support Worker

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FROM THE CANTEEN

**EAT HEALTHY**

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