Hello everyone and welcome back to Term 3.

The leadership team have been looking at our attendance data. Our attendance for Semester 1 is 87%. DECD’s attendance target is 93% so you can see that we have a way to go to achieve this. Following are some answers to some frequently asked questions about attendance.

Is regular attendance important?
Absolutely, from the very first day! If children miss the basic skills they often have difficulties learning later on. Irregular attendance in the early school years can lead to poor patterns of attendance in primary and secondary years.

Do I have to send my child to school?
Yes. It is a legal requirement that children attend school.

Do I have to send my child every day?
Yes, unless:
- the child is sick. Three days of absence require a doctor’s certificate.
- has a medical appointment that can’t be made out of school hours.
- has prearranged approval from the principal to go on a family holiday that can’t be arranged during school holidays.
- the principal is provided with a genuine and acceptable reason preventing the child’s attendance.

Must I notify the school if my child is going to be away?
Yes. This will avoid the school contacting you to see where the child is. All absences must be explained. Schools are required to monitor absences and follow up with families where there are too many absences.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joy Marks, our Pastoral Care Worker, for winning the Community Builder Award (Schools Ministry Group). The school nominated Joy for this award to acknowledge her positive impact within the school and across the community. Joy is a strong advocate for the youth of Mannum. Examples of things she has initiated or been involved with include a drop in centre, Senior Youth X Roads, Princess Series, Brave Heart Youth camp, JAM (Jesus and Me), TAG (Talk About God), Mid Murray Council Sk8te Park Committee and messy Church. We thank Joy for her contribution to the school and the community. We are delighted that her work has been recognised through this award.

Should I notify the school if my child refuses to go to school?
Yes.

DID YOU KNOW…?
- There is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement.
- Frequent absences disadvantage students as they miss valuable learning.
- Being absent five days a term from Reception to Year 10 adds up to more than one year of missed school.
- Being half an hour late to school each day from Reception to Year 10 adds up to just over one year of missed school.
- Students who are frequently absent from school are over-represented in the juvenile justice system.
- Poor attendance makes it difficult for students to form positive relationships with peers.
- Students who are frequently absent from school are more likely to end up homeless.
- Research shows that students who are often absent from school are likely to earn less than their peers as adults.

As you can see attendance at school is very important. Let’s give our kids every opportunity in life and get them to school EVERY DAY.

Cheers

Sue Record
Little Things Matter

What a cold welcome back to school!

I was so impressed with the way students have settled straight back into the school routine and their learning immediately. The Junior school are all using aspects of animation/ children's movies to engage the students this term. The Australian Curriculum outcomes - skills and knowledge - will be met and they form the foundation of the learning. Many teachers met during the holidays to develop powerful learning tasks using ‘Disney’.

**Interviews** are this week - if you forgot to make a time or none were suitable please contact the teacher to make a time. We really want to see every parent if possible. This is a chance for you to clarify any thing you are not sure of and to celebrate your child’s new learning. Most parents do not get in often to see their child’s teacher so take this opportunity if you can.

**Hand writing** All children are taught to write the letters with the hook right from the start, this is because reception children are introduced to blends and diagraphs. They are taught bl, tr, st etc. This means they are ready to connect letters to make sounds and do not have to relearn the letters in Year 1/2. Please encourage them to write at home on lines and with the hooks.

![Alphabet](image)

**Problem Solving** You might see toy dogs of all shapes and sizes, appearing in every class. This is because we have a focus on ‘P.O.O.C.H’. This stands for Problem, Options, Outcomes, Choose an option, How did it go? Children are being explicitly taught to work through their problems and to realise there are often several ways to handle them - some positive some not so. We encounter problems and have to make choices every day so this is an important life skill.

**Footsteps** dance lessons have started and ‘Courtney’ - the dance teacher, remarked on what a lovely group of children we have and how well mannered they are. Thank you to all parents who encourage their children to be polite and respectful - your powerful parenting shows! We have a strong focus on ‘Manners Matter’ here at school as well.

**Concert / Bookweek** are both this term. The ‘Disney’ theme forms the basis of the dances we are learning for the concert (even though some are from Pixar and other companies). Teachers will be in contact with you very soon to let you know which song / movie they are focusing on.

Hope to see you at interviews this week.

*Michele Holloway*

Junior School Leader

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**DROP OFF / PICK UP PARKING**

Reminder for parents: please do not park on the footpaths, there have been a number of near-miss incidents recently.

Parents and caregivers need to use the roadside car parking or Horward Bagshaw car park for pick up/drop off time.

This is a safety concern for our students and families, and a breach of Australian road rules. The Mid Murray Council have been notified and will be patrolling the area.

**NO DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS:**

A reminder that **NO DOGS** are allowed on school premises **even after hours**. We are having many incidences where dog faeces are found on the oval during recess and lunch times. Please pick up after your dog (s).

**LOOKING TOGETHER**

Help your child explore the world around them.

- Talking together about what you see builds your child’s vocabulary.
- Wonder about what you see. This helps your child become curious and curiosity helps learning.
- Taking time to look at the world together shows your child that you value them and their interests.

Reference: *Together - a book for families* by the SA Government

**CAN YOU HELP?**

We have more books that need covering. If you have the time to help, please come in and cover a few so we can get them into the classrooms.

*Michele Holloway*
MANNUM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PHONE SAFETY

As more and more students bring their phones to school it has become evident that there are additional issues which may arise. As a result, all student phone numbers will be entered into the school’s secure database. This will involve gathering the phone numbers of phones which students bring onto school grounds. This information will only be accessed by administrative staff should the need arise.

Only students who supply their mobile phone numbers will be allowed to bring their phones to school.

MANNUM COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CANTEEN

More lunch ordering is required if the canteen is to be viable - please help!

We need to let our families know that our canteen is at a vulnerable stage. We are seriously considering the future of the canteen and may have to make some sacrifices in the near future. Put simply, the canteen needs to make more money to be financially viable. We are asking for an increase in sales be generated and hope that your family can help.

One more order per week from each family would make a big difference. At this stage we are looking into trialling some other improvement strategies and hope to make a difference. Please consider this if you wish to have a canteen service in the long term.

We are happy to have parents join our Canteen Committee, please contact the office and leave your details if you are interested.

Kind regards
The Governing Council

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

All babies, children and young people under 18 years are welcome to attend the School Dental Service. Dental care is FREE for most school-aged children and ALL preschool children.

SA Dental Service participates in the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. A small fee may apply for children who are not eligible for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

To locate your local School Dental Clinic, or for more information about the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, please phone 8222 8222 or visit www.sadental.sa.gov.au

WOOLWORTHS
EARN AND LEARN

We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 15 July and Tuesday 8 September 2015. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school.

Simply pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it's completed, just bring it back to school or drop it into the Mannum Community College Collection Box at your local Woolies. The more we collect, the more we can redeem.

There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we‘d like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask at school.
INFORMATION FOR YOU

WHAT’S ON AT MANNUM COMMUNITY HUB

YOUTH X-ROADS

Wednesdays - 3.30 to 5.30pm

Mannum Community Hub

Seniors 13+ yrs - starting 20 May
Juniors 10 to 12 yrs - starting 27 May
(alternating fortnightly)

Volleyball
Music Jams
Table Tennis

Crafts
Jewellery Making
And more....

All genders welcome - join in the activities or sit and chill with your mates

Are you keen for

the drama workshop

Come along and get involved in creating a drama production to perform in a show at the end of the year!

You can get involved in many ways such as ...
Performing, Stage props, Technical and lighting, Costumes, Sets and Posters

The fun starts with Youth Group held at the HUB on Wednesday the 5th of August
3.30pm—5.30pm
You are invited to Book Week 2015!

The BOOK WEEK DRESS UP PARADE is on Thursday, August 27th at 11.30 am. It will be held in the Mannum Leisure Centre. Students may dress up as their favourite character from a book. Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed in each year level.

We will also be running a BOOK FAIR in week 6. (BOOK WEEK) During the week students will be given the chance to make a wish list of books they might like to buy. Buying day is FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th from 9-12.30. (each class will be given an allocated time.) Details to follow in next newsletter.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
Jo Dunn (Teacher Librarian)
EASTERN ZONE NETBALL CARNIVAL

Unfortunately there has been a mix-up with the dates for the Eastern Zone Netball Carnival. It was scheduled to be held on Thursday 2nd July but has now been postponed to **Thursday 20th August** (Thursday Week 5 Term 3).

SCHOOL BELL TIMES

**JUST A REMINDER:**

There is a bell at **8:40am** each morning to remind students that it’s time for Home Group. Roll books are marked at this time and if students are not there, they will be marked absent/unexplained.

At **8:50am** the bell sounds for the first lesson to start.

Students who arrive after **8:40am** need to sign in at the Front Office (with a parent or a short note to avoid an SMS).

**SMS PHONE NUMBER: 0427016623**

The Home Time bell is at **3:05pm**.

BEDWETTING

A DVD based program, Bedwetting Cured, has been developed by Dr Mark Condon and Physiotherapist, Margaret O’Donovan. It outlines a successful program for parents to implement at home with their children.

For further information and a free Bedwetting Fact Sheet please visit the website:

www.bedwettinginstitute.com.au

Or phone 1300 135 796 - 12noon to 6pm

SLEEP TIPS FOR CHILDREN

1. **Establish a regular sleep pattern**

Regular hours of sleep are important. It will help your child understand when it is time to sleep. Also, your child will have better sleep. Bed time should not vary by more than an hour between school and non-school nights. The same goes for the time your child wakes up.

2. **A consistent bedtime routine**

It is good to have the same routine before bed each night. This will help prepare for sleep. Quiet activities are good e.g. reading a book or being read to or having a bath or shower. In the half hour before bed, there are some things you don’t want your child to do. These are more active games, playing outside, TV, internet or mobile phone social networking and computer games.

3. **Make sure the bedroom is comfortable**

The bedroom should be quiet, comfortable and dark. Some children like a night light. This is fine. Make sure your child sees the bedroom as a good place to be. You can help do this by not using it as a place of punishment.

4. **Bed is for sleeping, not entertainment**

TV, computers, mobile phones and other things that distract your child are not good for their sleep. Keep them out of the bedroom. “Needing” the TV to go to sleep is a bad habit. This can easily develop, but you don’t want it to happen. It’s also better if you can check on what your child is watching.

Murray Bridge Basketball Association

**BRIDGE HOOPS**

Term 3 Bridge Hoops will commence on

**WEDNESDAY 12th Aug – 16th Sept, 2015**

**AT**

5.00 PM – 6.00 PM

**COST : $30 for 6 weeks**

Emphasis will be on development of individual and team skills for all participants.

Please bring a size 5 basketball if you have one and a named water bottle.

Registration forms available on our website or at the Stadium.

**HOOPS COACHES**

Any Senior players or older Junior players are encouraged to help coach at Hoops. No previous experience necessary as on-court instruction is included. Please see Petrina if you are able to help coach.

Please register with Stadium Co-Ordinator at the Murray Bridge Basketball Stadium. Phone 85310755 or Email: admin@mbba.com.au
**STUDENT PICK-UP**

Please notify the office if someone different is picking up your child. This is to ensure the safety of students.

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**ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS!**

The school and the Department for Education and Child Development (DECD) regularly monitor absenteeism. Prolonged absenteeism may be referred to the Student Attendance Counsellor in the Regional Office.

As with all absences, if your child is away sick it is important to notify the school. For a prolonged absence of three or more consecutive days you need to obtain a doctors certificate to be sent to the school for our records.

Health Care Plans may need to be developed in consultation with your doctor to enable the school to provide safe, appropriate health support.

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**Mannum Football Club**

has “Choice off the Board” meals available

Every THURSDAY night

Between 6PM – 8PM

Adults $11.00

Children $7.00

for anyone in the community.

Come along and enjoy a great value meal

Everyone Welcome

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**GIANT CONSTRUCTION BLOCKS**

Mid-Murray District Council and Opal made giant constructions blocks available for MCC Junior School students to enjoy for the last five weeks of last term. Ms Zrim’s class built transport items and a playground for a technology task. Other schools get to enjoy them on a rotation basis.

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**COMMUNITY/SCHOOL LIBRARY CLOSURE**

Please note that the library will be

CLOSED ALL DAY

ON

WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST 2015

DUE TO ALL STAFF ATTENDING A TRAINING SESSION.

WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE
LIBRARY NEWS

LIBRARY BORROWING

MONDAY: 6/7 LOVE, 6/7 STAGG
TUESDAY: 1/2 WATERS, 3/4 GRIEGER
WEDNESDAY: R/1 BRODIE
THURSDAY: 2/3 ZRIM, 4/5 BRUCE
FRIDAY: REC DOWLING, R/1 LAREDO, 4/5 ROWLEY

A reminder that the Premier’s Reading Challenge finishes on September 4th, 2015. (Week 7)

Students were challenged to read 12 books from the start of the school year until the first Friday in September. Students need to record their 12 books onto their PRC form and have it signed by their teacher, librarian or parent/caregiver. The form must be given to their teacher or handed in to the library by September 4th. Medals and certificates arrive in November. Happy Reading!

Jo Dunn
Teacher Librarian

JOY’S CORNER

Borrowing Times

TUESDAY: 4/5 Brodie, 3/4 Grieger
THURSDAY: 2/3 Zrim, 1/2 Ryan, Rec De Ravin, 4/5 Rowley
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.

Joy Marks
Pastoral Care Worker

FROM THE CANTEEN

Welcome back to a cold start for Term 3.

Gluten Free Chicken Nuggets are now available from the canteen for 60₵ each. Please mark lunch order bag G/F when ordering.

There has been a reshuffle within our distributor for Juice products so at the moment, small juice will be 250ml - new price is $2.25

I will endeavor to find another supplier so please change your price lists for the interim period. Thanks.

Carol Mobbs,
Canteen Manageress (85692971)

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“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”
—Maya Angelou

Happy Reading!

Jo Dunn
Teacher Librarian